



A board on a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the Dow Jones industrial average with an intraday number above 15,000, Tuesday, May 7, 2013. The U.S. stock market joined a global rally Tuesday, and the DJIA punched through another milestone Tuesday: its first close above 15,000.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

DJIA punches through milestone: closes above 15,000

MATT CRAFT
STEVE ROTHWELL
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Just two months after recovering the last of its losses from the financial crisis, the Dow Jones industrial average charged higher Tuesday, closing above 15,000 for the first time. It was another milestone in the market's epic ascent of 2013. Good economic reports, strong corporate earnings and fresh support from central banks have eased investors' concerns about another economic slowdown. Many had been on the lookout for signs that

a spring swoon would derail the rally, as happened in each of the past three years. Instead, Wall Street has climbed almost 15 percent since Jan. 1. "The thing that's been driving stocks is rising confidence," said James Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management. "Economic growth, job creation and the housing market have been better than expected." News of stronger hiring over the past three months briefly propelled the Dow over 15,000 on Friday, but

it ended the week below that mark. Wall Street followed Japanese and European markets higher after they responded to good news about central bank stimulus and the German economy. In the U.S., the market got a lift from higher quarterly profits at satellite TV company DirecTV and watchmaker Fossil. The Dow closed at 15,056.20, up 87.31 points, or 0.6 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 8.46 points to 1,625.96, a gain of 0.5 percent. Both indexes reached all-time highs earlier this

year, then kept climbing, largely driven by optimism that the U.S. economy will continue gaining strength. "We don't think people are giving enough credit to the strength of the economy," said Ryan Detrick, a senior technical strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Research. "We still like the market." The gains piled up with the growing realization among investors that the traditional threats to a rising market — higher interest rates, falling profits, a possible recession — are unlikely to appear anytime soon. What's more, with interest rates

near record lows, they see few other places to put their money. In a round of interviews on Monday, investor Warren Buffett said the stock market looked "reasonably priced" even after its surge. But, Buffett added, people pay too much attention to markets reaching new highs. They ought to pay attention when markets hit new lows. "That's when stocks are getting cheaper," Buffett said. "That's when stocks are going on sale."

Continued on Page 24

20 dead in gas tanker disaster near Mexico City

**ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
JOSE OSORIO**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A natural gas tanker truck lost control, hit a center divider and exploded on a highway lined by homes in the Mexico City suburb of Ecatepec early Tuesday, killing at least 20 people and injuring nearly three dozen, authorities said. Officials at the Citizen Safety Department of Mexico State, which surrounds the capital, did not rule out the possibility the death toll could rise as emergency workers continued sifting through the charred remains of vehicles and homes built near the highway on the northern edge of the metropolis. Residents pitched in to rescue people from the wreckage of the 5:30 a.m. explosion, crushed and burned cars and shattered homes. Television footage showed plumes of flame shooting out of homes in the pre-dawn darkness. A huge piece of the truck's gas tank was blown 50 yards by the blast, landing atop the wall of a house and cars parked outside.

A number of pigs and other farm animals that were kept on patios were killed.

"It was thunderous sound. I thought we were all going to die," said Rita Enriquez, 42, a housewife who lives nearby. "When we ran out, we saw a car on fire and flames everywhere. Smoke was pouring all over the freeway."

Mario Lopez, 43, a mechanic, lives in the house hit by the tank and managed to escape with his three sons after being awakened by the blast.

"All the windows broke to the inside.

We got down and left crawling," said Lopez, who lost a brother, a sister, three nephews and a sister-in-law who all lived in separate units of the three-story home. He said 12 people in all died in the house. "Everything was in flames," he said.

Enriquez said five of her relatives were gravely injured in their concrete slab home along the road, though she had no other details as she waited for word outside Magdalena Las Salinas Hospital in Mexico City.

Her 15-year-old niece,



Firefighters work as a house burns after a gas tanker truck exploded on the highway in front of the house in the Mexico City suburb of Ecatepec, early Tuesday, May 7, 2013. The blast killed and injured at least 20, according to the Citizen Safety Department of Mexico State.

(AP Photo/Gabriela Sanchez)

Wendy Garrido, who was pregnant, was forced to give birth after the explosion, she said. They survived but both were in intensive care, Health Secretary Cesar Gomez said.

The pre-dawn disaster exposed two recurrent public safety issues in Mexico: extremely heavy trucks that are frequently involved in serious accidents, and the construction of improvised homes just feet away from major highways.

Some of the cinderblock homes hit by the huge explosion were just steps from the busy, eight-lane highway. Other homes were mere shacks, built of sheet tin.

Lopez said the highway recently had been widened, bringing traffic perilously closer to their dwellings.

"They never thought a car could hit them or an explosion of this magnitude," said Maribel Juarez, the cousin of another family killed in

the explosion. "Now we have to bury their coffins and our family members are never going to return."

The driver, Juan Olivares, 36, was heading south from the city of Pachuca to Mexico City in a tractor that was hauling two gas tanks on tandem trailers, said Jose Luis Cervantes, an assistant state prosecutor. He said the vehicle belonged to the Termogas company.

Cervantes said the tractor hit a center divider and broke apart, with one tank flying into a house and exploding, killing 15 people, and another part of a tank hitting a separate house, killing four. He did not say where the 20th person died.

The driver, who was under detention while being treated at a hospital, could face manslaughter and property damage charges, the prosecutor said.

"We just pulled burned people, and put out the fire in the houses, but we don't really know what happened," said Rogelio Martinez, a resident.

State security officials counted 33 injured. More than 20 had been hospitalized, eight of them in grave condition, said Gomez, the health secretary.

Emergency personnel at the scene pulled dead from their homes, some apparently burned in their beds. □

IMF's Lagarde criticizes US spending cuts

**TOBY STERLING
Associated Press**

AMSTERDAM (AP) — International Monetary Fund head Christine Lagarde criticized the U.S. government's budget policies as too tight on Tuesday, in an appearance in Amsterdam that was interrupted by student protestors. Lagarde said the U.S. government's debt reduction plans are too abrupt, including the \$85 billion in federal budget cuts known as the sequester. She said that the current policies would lower the U.S. economy's growth rate. The IMF's most recent forecast in April said the U.S. economy would expand by 2 percent this year, 1.75 percentage points slower than it would have grown without the tax hikes and spending cuts.

The U.S. "should consolidate less in the short term, but give...economic actors the certainty that there will be fiscal consolidation going forward," she said.

Lagarde had just begun speaking to students at the University of Amsterdam

when the protestors began an organized, chanting disruption. One would call out "mic check!" and dozens more would yell back "Madame Lagarde!"

Then individual students mocked her as supposedly believing that "technoc-

racy is better than democracy" and satirized her as having said that Greeks should "help themselves... by paying all their tax."

Security guards dragged students away until there were none left shouting, and eventually the interview resumed.

Lagarde defended reforms the IMF had recommended be carried out in Greece, but admitted they had caused a greater economic decline than expected.

"What we underestimated is the consequences, that's clear," she said.

The 17-country eurozone is in recession, and Lagarde and an increasing number of economists now criticize a German-led drive for all members to get their budget deficits under 3 percent as soon as possible. □



International Monetary Fund head Christine Lagarde speaks to students at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, Tuesday, May 7, 2013. Lagarde criticized the U.S. government's budget policies as too tight on Tuesday, in an appearance in Amsterdam that was interrupted by student protestors.

(AP Photo/Toby Sterling)

Police seek missed clues after missing women rescued

JOHN COYNE
T. J. SHEERAN
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Neighbors said Tuesday they had called police on at least two occasions over the years to check on the peeling, rundown house where three women, who vanished separately about a decade ago, were being held. Police said they visited the house twice regarding two unrelated incidents.

While the rescue of the women Monday exhilarated and astonished the Midwestern U.S. city of Cleveland, police are facing questions about their handling of the case.

One neighbor said she called police after her daughter saw a naked woman crawling on her hands and knees in the backyard of the house a few years ago. Another said he called after hearing pounding on the doors and noticed plastic bags over the windows.

Police showed up at the house both times, the neighbors say, but never went inside.

Police Chief Michael McGrath said Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight had apparently been held captive in the house since their teens or early 20s.

Authorities arrested three brothers, ages 50 to 54. One of them, former school bus driver Ariel Castro, owned the home, situated in a poor neighborhood dotted with boarded-up houses. No immediate charges were filed.

The break in the case came when the 27-year-old Berry kicked out the bottom of a locked screen door at the home and used a neighbor's telephone to call police. Choking back tears, she breathlessly told the dispatcher: "Help me. I'm Amanda Berry. I've been kidnapped and I've been missing for 10 years and I'm, I'm here, I'm free now."

Police arrived to find the two other women, along with a 6-year-old girl who authorities said was be-

lieved to Berry's daughter. Police would not say who the father was or where the child was born.

Authorities would not say how the women were taken captive, whether they were restrained inside the

naked woman crawling on her hands and knees in the backyard several years ago and called police. "But they didn't take it seriously," she said.

Another neighbor, Israel Lugo, said he heard

said.

Neighbors also said they would see Castro sometimes walking a little girl to a neighborhood playground. And Cintron said she once saw a little girl looking out of the attic win-

but not in connection with the women's disappearance, officials said.

In 2000, before the women vanished, Ariel Castro reported a fight in the street, but no arrests were made, Flask said.



This undated combination photo released by the Cleveland Police Department shows from left, Onil Castro, Ariel Castro, and Pedro Castro. The three brothers were arrested Tuesday, May 7, 2013, after three women who disappeared in Cleveland a decade ago were found safe Monday. The brothers are accused of holding the victims against their will.

(AP Photo/Cleveland Police Department)

house or if they had been sexually assaulted. Police said they were trying to be delicate in their questioning of the women, given their ordeal.

Elsie Cintron, who lives three houses away, said her daughter once saw a

pounding on some of the doors of Castro's house, which had plastic bags on the windows, in November 2011. Lugo said officers knocked on the front door, but no one answered. "They walked to side of the house and then left," he

said.

"Everyone in the neighborhood did what they had to do," said Lupe Collins, who is close to relatives of the women. "The police didn't do their job."

Police did go to the house twice in the past 15 years,

In 2004, officers went to the home after child welfare officials alerted them that Ariel Castro, a school bus driver, had apparently left a child unattended on a bus, Flask said. No one answered the door, according to Flask. □

Colorado shootings suspect to enter insanity plea

DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The man accused in the deadly Colorado theater shootings wants to change his plea to not guilty by reason of insanity, his lawyers said Tuesday.

The insanity plea was widely expected given the compelling evidence against James Holmes, who is accused of opening fire July 20 in a crowded theater in the Denver suburb of Aurora. Twelve people were killed and 70 injured.

Attorneys for Holmes said in a court filing they plan to formally ask for the change of plea at a May 13 hearing.

His lawyers delayed entering an insanity plea for weeks, saying Colorado's

insanity and death penalty laws overlapped in a way that could severely — and unconstitutionally — hamper his defense if he did plead insanity.

The defense has asked both judges who have presided over the case to rule on the constitutionality of the laws. Both judges refused, saying the question was speculative because Holmes hadn't entered an insanity plea. That left Holmes' lawyers with no choice but to enter the insanity plea, then seek a ruling on the constitutionality question.

Holmes, 25, is charged with multiple counts of murder and attempted murder.

A judge in the case previously entered a standard not guilty plea for him. If a judge accepts the new

plea, Holmes would be sent to the state mental hospital, where doctors would determine whether he was insane at the time of the shootings.

If the doctors do determine that Holmes was insane, a jury could still find him guilty.

Colorado law defines insanity as the inability to distinguish right from wrong, caused by a diseased or defective mind. The law specifically excludes depravity, "moral obliquity" or passion caused by anger or hatred from being considered insanity.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. They declined to comment Tuesday.

Holmes' attorneys have said in court hearings and written in court documents

that Holmes is mentally ill. He was being seen by a psychiatrist before the attack at a midnight screening of the latest Batman movie.

Prosecutors say Holmes spent months buying guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition, donned police-style body armor and opened fire in the crowded theater.

Last month, prosecutors filed a court document listing aggravating factors they plan to raise in a possible death penalty phase of the trial.

The factors included the death of 6-year-old Veronica Moser-Sullivan, the youngest of dead.

Prosecutors also said in the filing that the slayings were "especially heinous, cruel or depraved." □



Obama, South Korea show united front

President Barack Obama speaks during a news conference with South Korea President Park Geun-hye in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.
(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and South Korea's new leader warned North Korea on Tuesday against further nuclear provocations, with Obama declaring that the days when Pyongyang could "create a crisis and elicit concessions" were over.

Tuesday's meetings between Obama and South Korean President Park Geun-hye followed months of increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea conducted an underground atomic test in February and had appeared ready for another. New U.S. intelligence assessments also showed for the first time that North Korea may have the know-how to launch a nuclear-armed missile, though American officials say Pyongyang still appears to lack the capability to carry out an attack.

Ahead of Tuesday's talks, the North appeared to send mixed messages. U.S. officials said Pyongyang removed from a launch pad a set of medium-range ballistic missiles that had been readied for possible test-firing. But North Korea also warned the U.S. and South Korea that it would retaliate if joint military exercise between the two allies resulted in any shells landing on its territory.

Analysts see some of North Korea's recent bluster as an attempt by the country's new leader, Kim Jong Un, to establish himself as a power player, both within his own country and in the international community. Obama said he knew little about Kim personally and has never spoken to him, but added that his actions were leading him down a dead end.

"There's going to have to be changes in behavior," Obama said. "We have an expression in English, 'Don't worry about what I say, just watch what I do.'"

Obama also disputed the notion that his cautious response to reported chemical weapons use in Syria — a move he had said would cross a "red line" — could embolden North Korea's unpredictable young leader and other U.S. foes.

"Whether it's bin Laden or Gadhafi, if we say we're taking a position, I would think at this point the international community has a pretty good sense that we typically follow through on our commitments," Obama said. □



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Gov. Christie: weight-loss surgery about 'family'

GEOFF MULVIHILL
STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Gov. Chris Christie, who once famously called himself "the healthiest fat guy you've ever seen," disclosed Tuesday he had secretly undergone weight-loss surgery, a major new step by the potential Republican presidential contender to address both his health and a political vulnerability.

The stakes are high for Christie, with medical professionals and campaign strategists alike suggesting there is no more serious barrier to his personal well-being and national ambitions than his weight.

It's not about politics, he said. It's about turning 50 and wanting to be around as his children grow up.

"This is a hell of a lot more important to me than running for president," Christie, a father of four, said at a news conference in Newark. "This is about my family's future."

Christie, who appeared thinner than he did earlier this year, said he decided around the time of his birthday in September to have the surgery and initially planned to have it done in November. But Superstorm Sandy's destruction in New Jersey pushed back the procedure until February. In the operation, a band was surgically placed around his stomach to restrict how much food he could eat.

Christie has not previously disclosed his weight, and he didn't on Tuesday. But it has been an issue throughout his political career. Comedians have often made fun of it, and in interviews with David Letterman, Oprah Winfrey, Barbara Walters and others, Chris-



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie during a town hall meeting in Long Beach Township, N.J. Gov. Christie, who once famously called himself "the healthiest fat guy you've ever seen," disclosed Tuesday he had secretly undergone weight-loss surgery.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

tie has both joked about the issue and said solemnly that he was trying to shed pounds.

During a February appearance on "The Late Show with David Letterman," the governor pulled out a doughnut and said his girth was "fair game" for comedians.

Over the next few days, he was asked repeatedly about his weight. At one point, he said he had a plan. "Whether it's successful or not," he said, "you'll all be able to notice."

The next day, he responded angrily to comments from a former White House physician who said she hoped he would run for president but worried about him dying in office. The governor said the doctor should "shut up."

Ten days after that, on Feb. 16, Christie had the surgery. He said the operation lasted 40 minutes and he was home the same afternoon. □

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Republicans question security in immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican senators criticized border security provisions in an ambitious bipartisan immigration bill Tuesday, arguing that a divided Congress won't pass it unless security is beefed up. Several Republicans said the landmark bill relies too much on setting goals and requiring studies about border security, and too little on actual accomplishments.

After overwhelmingly losing the fast-growing Latino vote in the November elections, Republicans have found themselves in a bind on immigration. The party establishment and several prominent Republicans have called for finding a long-term solution to an issue that has vexed American politics for years, while some conservatives have called for a slower approach.

Both Democratic and Republican senators filed a flurry of amendments ahead of the first votes

Thursday in the Judiciary Committee on the far-reaching bill to deal with an estimated 11 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally and the millions more who might be expected to try to enter

in the future. Some of the amendments could destroy the legislation's prospects by upending the carefully crafted deal negotiated over months by four Republican and four Democratic senators, sup-

porters say.

One of the legislation's authors, Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican and potential presidential candidate in 2016, has already acknowledged that the bill will face a tough road to passage

if the border security elements are not improved. Rubio has also discussed strengthening the "triggers" that require certain steps to be taken before a path to citizenship can begin.

Sen. Rand Paul, another potential presidential contender who's voiced support for comprehensive immigration overhaul, raised questions about the bill Tuesday at a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing. Paul, a favorite of the conservative Tea Party movement, insisted he aimed to improve the legislation so it can pass not just the Democratic-controlled Senate but also the Republican-run House of Representatives, where its prospects are uncertain. Paul denied that he's out to oppose the bill or slow it down. "I want to be constructive in making the bill strong enough that conservatives ... will vote for it," said Paul. "If it's not any stronger than this I don't see it getting through the House," he said.

Officials with the Department of Homeland Security testified Tuesday that the U.S.-Mexico border is more secure than ever but they said the provisions in the bill would help them make it even stronger. They praised the pending legislation for directing more resources to the agency for surveillance equipment and for authorizing 3,500 new Border Patrol officers. The bill allocates \$5.5 billion for border measures aimed at achieving 100 percent surveillance of the entire border and blocking 90 percent of border crossers and would-be crossers in high-entrance areas. □ The Homeland Security De-



Jim DeMint, president of the Heritage Foundation, gestures during a news conference on immigration reform Monday, May 6, 2013, in Washington. The Heritage Foundation presented a study that immigration legislation would cost taxpayers \$6.3 trillion to provide government benefits for millions of people now living in the U.S. illegally. Supporters of the legislation call the study deeply flawed.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

FBI head to Moscow; bombing probe discussed

**PETE YOST
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI director Robert Mueller discussed the Boston Marathon bombings investigation with his Russian counterparts during a trip to Moscow and engaged in talks on security cooperation between the two countries.

FBI spokesman Michael Kortan said Tuesday's visit was productive and that Mueller is now on his way

to other overseas destinations. Kortan declined to elaborate on conversations in Moscow about the Boston bombing probe. The U.S. and Russia have been collaborating on the criminal investigation into the two suspects in the Boston case.

Russian agents placed the elder Boston bombing suspect,

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, under surveillance during a six-month visit to southern Rus-

sia last year, then scrambled to find him when he suddenly disappeared after police killed a Canadian jihadist, a Russian security official has told The Associated Press.

U.S. law enforcement officials have been trying to determine whether Tamerlan Tsarnaev was indoctrinated or trained by militants during his visit to Dagestan, a Caspian Sea province that has become the center of a simmering

Islamic insurgency.

The Russian security official with the Anti-Extremism Center, a federal agency under Russia's Interior Ministry, told the AP that Russian agents were watching Tsarnaev, and that they searched for him when he disappeared two days after the July 2012 death of the Canadian man, William Plotnikov, who had joined the Islamic insurgency in the region. The Russian official spoke only on con-

dition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media. □

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Change demanded as military sex assault reports rise

**DONNA CASSATA
 LOLITA C. BALDOR
 Associated Press
 WASHINGTON (AP)**

Sexual assaults in the U.S. military are a growing epidemic across the services and thousands of victims are still unwilling to come forward despite a slew of new oversight and assistance programs, according to Pentagon documents. Troubling new numbers estimate that up to 26,000 military members may have

tion. President Barack Obama delivered a sharp rebuke Tuesday, saying he has no tolerance for the problem, and he said he talked to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel about it. He said that any military member found guilty of sexual assault should be held accountable, prosecuted and fired. "I don't want just more speeches or awareness programs or training, or ultimately folks look the other

reported the incidents, officials said Tuesday. That number is an increase over the 19,000 estimated assaults in 2011. The statistics highlight the dismal results that military leaders have achieved in their drive to change the culture within the ranks, even as the services redoubled efforts to launch new programs to assist the victims, encourage reporting and increase commanders' vigilance. Hagel ordered a series of steps and reviews to increase officers' accountability for what happens under their commands, and to inspect workstations

for objectionable materials, according to memos and documents obtained by the AP. Hagel ordered military leaders to develop a method to assess commanders and hold them accountable on their ability to create a climate "of dignity and respect." He has given commanders until July 1 to visually inspect workspaces to make sure they are free of degrading materials, and military leaders have until Nov. 1 to recommend ways to assess officers and hold them accountable for their command climates. "Sexual assault is a crime that is incompatible with

military service and has no place in this department," Hagel said in a new response plan the department will release Tuesday. "It is an affront to the American values we defend, and it is a stain on our honor. (The Department of Defense) needs to be a national leader in combating sexual assault and we will establish an environment of dignity and respect, where sexual assault is not tolerated, condoned, or ignored." While the latest cases involve Air Force members, the problem extends across all the military services. □



The Senate Armed Services Committee hears from top officials of the Air Force, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, right, and Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, left, during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 7, 2013. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

been sexually assaulted last year, according to survey results released against a backdrop of scandals including an ongoing investigation into more than 30 Air Force instructors for assaults on trainees at a Texas base. The report comes just days after the Air Force's head of sexual assault prevention was arrested last week-end on charges of groping a woman in a suburban Virginia parking lot. And it follows a heated debate over whether commanders should be stripped of the authority to overturn military jury verdicts, such as one officer did in a recent sexual assault conviction.

way," he said. "We're going to have to not just step up our game, we have to exponentially step up our game to go after this hard." The Associated Press obtained documents and memos related to a new Pentagon report slated for release Tuesday. The documents show that the number of sexual assaults actually reported by members of the military rose 6 percent to 3,374 in 2012. But a survey of personnel who were not required to reveal their identities showed the number of service members actually assaulted could be as many as 26,000, but they never

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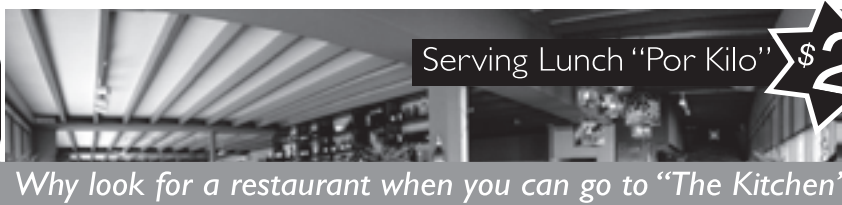
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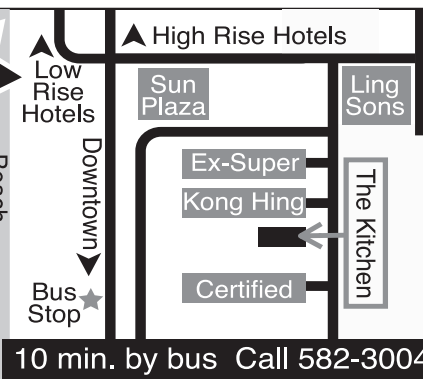


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President Assad says Syria able to face Israel

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — In his first response to Israel's weekend airstrikes, President Bashar Assad said Tuesday that Syria is capable of facing Israel, but stopped short of threatening retaliation for the strikes near the Syrian capital of Damascus. Assad spoke after a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, who paid an unexpected visit to Damascus. Iran, one of Syria's closest allies, and Hezbollah, a Lebanese militia allied with both Assad and Tehran, have become increasingly involved in Syria's civil war, supporting the regime with fighters, military advisers and weapons. Syria and

Hezbollah have been key to Iran's expansion of influence into the Arab world, and a collapse of the Assad regime would be a major blow to Tehran. "We are fully confident that Syria will emerge victorious from the crisis," Salehi said about the more than 2-year-old battle between fighters loyal to Assad and rebels trying to oust him. Israel's airstrikes on Friday and Sunday put Syria and Iran in a difficult position because if they retaliated, they would run the risk of drawing Israel's powerful army into the war. At the same time, inaction further weakens Assad's already shaky claims to being the leader of the Arab world's hard-line, anti-Israeli camp.



Syrian rebels pray in front of a tank, at al Mutayia village, in the southern province of Daraa, Syria. In his first response to Israel's weekend airstrikes, President Bashar Assad said Tuesday that Syria is capable of facing Israel, but stopped short of threatening retaliation for the strikes near the Syrian capital of Damascus.

(AP Photo)

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Third Course

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Israel has not formally acknowledged the strikes, but Israeli officials have said they targeted shipments of advanced Iranian weapons possibly bound for Hezbollah. The officials have said the aim was to deprive Hezbollah of weapons that could someday be used against Israel, not to raise tensions with Syria. Israel has largely stayed on the sidelines since the uprising against Assad, which erupted in March 2011, turned into an armed insurgency and finally a civil war. But on Tuesday, Assad accused Israel of supporting "terrorists" — the Syrian government's name for the anti-regime rebels — and boasted that Syria was "capable of facing Israel's ventures." He did not say what action he would take, if any.

Salehi adopted a slightly harsher tone, saying that "it is time to deter the Israeli occupiers from carrying out these aggressions against the peoples of the region." He also stopped short of threatening retaliation. Later Tuesday, Internet companies reported Syria was experiencing an outage similar to a two-day blackout last fall. Syrian authorities have cut phone and Internet service in select areas in the past to disrupt rebel communications when regime forces are conducting major operations. The companies said Syria's networks appeared to go offline about 9 p.m. (1900 GMT). Meanwhile, the United States and Russia, another Syria ally, said they'll convene a new international conference later this month to build on a transition plan

they set out last year in Geneva. Speaking in Moscow after his discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin and other officials, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said the plan should be a roadmap for peace and not just a "piece of paper." The goal is still to bring the Assad regime and representatives from the opposition together for talks on setting up an interim government, Kerry said. The Geneva plan, which never gained traction, allowed each side to veto candidates it found unacceptable. In Syria, meanwhile, rebels detained four U.N. peacekeepers on Tuesday near the frontier with the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, raising tensions just two days after the most recent Israeli airstrike. □



International donors pledge \$300 million for Somalia

CASSANDRA VINOGRAD

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — International donors heeded warnings about the need for increased support for Somalia by pledging more than \$300 million Tuesday toward bolstering security, justice and financial institutions in the conflict-scarred east African nation.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and British Prime Minister David Cameron co-hosted a one-day conference in London to bolster the beleaguered government in Mogadishu, the capital.

Mohamud called the level of support at the conference “very, very encouraging,” after stressing that there is a “huge amount” at stake in Somalia and for broader regional security.

“We have been given a chance and we will prove in the eyes of the world that we will deliver,” he said. “We cannot afford to miss this golden opportunity and we hope the world’s support and commitment will be materialized soon.”

Cameron welcomed pledges made at the conference, saying attendees had taken “major steps” to back Somalia’s president and his plans for long-term security and transparent and accountable government. Somalia has endured years of civil war and governing chaos since its dictator was overthrown in 1991. Mohamud was inaugurated in September at the end of an eight-year U.N.-backed transitional government. But from roughly 2006 to 2011, Mogadishu was controlled by Al-Shabab, an al-Qaida affiliate that seeks to overthrow the Mogadishu-based government and install an Islamic one. African Union troops forced

al-Shabab out of the capital in 2011 but the group still controls wide swaths of south-central Somalia.

Bank — heard how Somalia plans to develop its security forces, its justice sector and its financial man-

Britain said it would give 35 million pounds (\$54.2 million) to help with security — including 10 million

1.5 million pounds (\$2.3 million) toward protecting Somalia’s coastline from piracy. Funds also will help increase the number of police officers and train judges and lawyers.

The European Union pledged 44 million euros (\$57.6 million) to strengthen Somalia’s justice system and police force, and 145 million pounds (\$225 million) was pledged by the U.K. to help Somalia cope with future famines.

Cameron earlier praised the gains made in Somalia over the past year, saying that extremism is in retreat, piracy attacks are down and the government is moving ahead.

“After two decades of bloodshed and some of the worst poverty on earth, hope is alive in Somalia,” Cameron said. “Now it is time to fulfill the hope for the people of Somalia. That is what they have been living and waiting for, and we must not let them down.” □



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, right, shake hands during a press conference at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, Tuesday May 7, 2013. (AP Photo/Ben Stansall)

Those attending Tuesday — including African heads of state, representatives from the IMF and the World

agement systems.

The U.S. said it would provide an additional \$40 million in aid to Somalia, while

pounds (\$15.5 million) over two years to help Somalia extend its armed forces beyond Mogadishu and

Al-Qaida offshoot threatens French interests

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — An Algeria-based al-Qaida offshoot said in an online video on Tuesday that Muslims have an obligation to attack French interests around the world because of France’s military intervention in Mali. In a message posted on YouTube, Abou Obeida Youssef Al-Annabi, a notable in the Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb group, or AQIM, said the “crusade” led by France in Mali makes its interests “legitimate targets.”

French President Francois Hollande said he takes the threat seriously. Hollande ordered the Jan. 11 intervention to stamp out AQIM

and two other groups of radicals that controlled northern Mali.

The speech by Al-Annabi said the military campaign against AQIM “is an issue of religion being disgraced and a people being annihilated and an identity destroyed.” He said, “It is an obligation on you, Muslims, to respond ... by confronting French interests everywhere.”

“These interests,” Al-Annabi said, “have become legitimate targets for you,” warning that France risks falling into “the same swamp which America fell in in Iraq and Afghanistan.” The group had previously threatened French interests but in less dramatic

written statements.

France, helped by African forces, quickly pushed AQIM and other jihadists from Mali’s main northern cities, including Timbuktu, killing or dispersing jihadists. Special forces and other troops are now in a clean-up phase, searching for scattered fighters and their caches after seizing some 200 tons of munitions and arms. “We take seriously this threat from AQIM. We have inflicted tremendous loss to AQIM via the intervention in Mali,” Hollande said at a news conference. “But AQIM networks exist outside Mali,” he noted. The intervention in Mali will continue “for the time required,” Hollande said,

while France remains vigilant elsewhere, including protecting French installations.

He noted the April 23 car bomb outside the French Embassy in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, that wounded two French guards and a Libyan girl in a home nearby. No group claimed responsibility for that attack. French authorities have said they were increasing security around Africa’s Sahel region where Mali, a former colony, is located as well as in the Middle East. In France, there is extra surveillance at monuments and facilities that draw the public such as airports. France has nearly 4,000 troops in Mali. □

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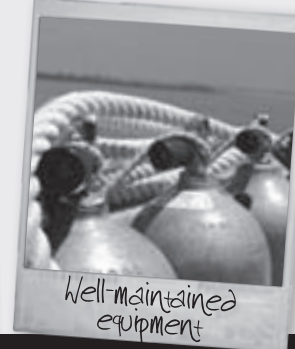
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Israel groups say PM halts new settlement building

DANIEL ESTRIN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stopped approving new construction in West Bank settlements, two prominent Israeli activist groups said Tuesday, in what could be an attempt to clear the way for renewed peace talks with the Palestinians. Anti-settlement group Peace Now, which monitors all new Israeli settlement construction, said Netanyahu has not approved new tenders or announcements of new building plans in the settlements since he won a new term in January elections.

"It seems that Netanyahu took it upon himself to follow a policy of restraint," Peace Now said in a statement. It said Netanyahu was likely trying to avoid colliding with the U.S. at a time when Secretary of State John Kerry is attempting to restart peace negotiations. The group said it did not know how long the freeze on new settlement building would hold, and noted that previously started settlement building is proceeding. The Yesha settlers council, which promotes settlement construction, also claimed a freeze was in place. Yigal Dilmoni, a Yesha official,



An Israeli soldier patrols, at the Lebanese-Israeli border, near the southern village of Kfar Kila, Lebanon, Tuesday May 7, 2013. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

said Netanyahu's office confirmed to him that the prime minister has stopped approving housing tenders. "This does not help anything, and it is discriminatory," Dilmoni said. "We are severely against this." Peace talks broke down in 2008 and have remained stalled in large part because of Israeli settlement construction in the West

Bank and east Jerusalem. The Palestinians claim both areas, captured by Israel in 1967, as parts of a future independent state and have insisted that Israel halt settlement construction before peace talks to resume. Israel says the talks should take place without preconditions. Following President Obama's visit to the region

in March, Kerry has been shuttling between the two sides to try to break the deadlock. Last week, after some prodding by Kerry, Arab leaders renewed a decade-old comprehensive peace offer, with softer language to appeal to Israel, to help restart talks. Israel has not responded to the offer.

Kerry is scheduled to meet with Israeli and Palestinian representatives in Rome this week.

Last September, the Palestinians won upgraded status at the United Nations. Netanyahu responded by announcing plans to build hundreds of new homes in settlements. But those plans never moved forward.

Israeli Housing Minister Uri Ariel, a pro-settler hardliner, met with Netanyahu recently. He asked Netanyahu to push forward the housing tenders, but Netanyahu refused, Dilmoni claimed. □

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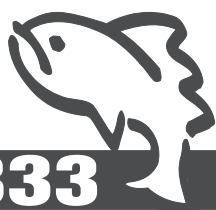


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Kosovo:

EU arrests suspected Balkan drug lord

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — EU authorities intervened late Tuesday to arrest an ethnic Albanian suspected of running a major cocaine and heroin smuggling network from Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, after Kosovo authorities could not extend his detention because it breached local laws. EULEX, the European Union rule of law mission in Kosovo, said Tuesday that Naser Kelmendi was sought by Interpol, and that he was arrested on allegations of involvement in organized crime.

Kelmendi was first taken

into custody by Kosovo special police units on Sunday based on an international arrest warrant issued by Bosnia's authorities. But he could not be extradited to Bosnia because he is a Kosovo citizen. Bosnia does not recognize Kosovo's 2008 secession from Serbia and has no direct contact with it. Last year, the U.S. Treasury put Kelmendi on a list that bars U.S. citizens from doing business with him and allows authorities to freeze any of his U.S. assets. Authorities in Bosnia want him as part of an investiga-

tion into criminals linked to at least six murders, illegal money transfers and drug trafficking. Kelmendi is suspected of managing a criminal network stretching from Turkey into Western Europe.

Bosnian authorities have branded Kelmendi's case of "urgent nature" on Sunday and said they will submit an official request to Kosovo via Interpol and EULEX for Kelmendi's extradition to Bosnia. But it is unclear whether any side involved can find a legal loophole that allows the extradition. □

Egypt appoints nine ministers in limited reshuffle



Mohammed Morsi, center, meets with his cabinet in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, May 7, 2013. Nine new Egyptian ministers joined President Mohammed Morsi's Cabinet on Tuesday, including two members of his Muslim Brotherhood, in a reshuffle that officials said was aimed at addressing the country's financial woes and securing a much-needed international loan.

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Nine new Egyptian ministers joined President Mohammed Morsi's Cabinet on Tuesday, including three members of his Muslim Brotherhood, in a reshuffle that officials said was aimed at addressing the country's financial woes and securing a much-needed international loan. Morsi supporters claim he wants to reach out to other political blocs, yet the Cabinet reshuffle is unlikely to ease Egypt's political polarization. The opposition complained that they were not consulted on the appointments, and said they would only further the "Brotherhood-ization" of Morsi's government. Two of the nine new ministers hail from the Brotherhood political party.

The latest reshuffle — the second since Morsi took office in June last year — increases to 11 the number of Brotherhood members in key posts in the 36-seat Cabinet. The previous reshuffle in January nearly doubled the number of Brotherhood members from five to eight. The Cabinet also includes a handful of Islamists and allies of the Brotherhood.

In a statement, Morsi's office said the Cabinet changes were made to "inject new blood," including young ministers, at a

time when improving the nation's economic performance and security are a priority for the government. The youngest minister in the reshuffled Cabinet is the new investment minister, 35-year Yehia Hamed, a former Morsi aide and member of the Brotherhood. "The challenges Egypt faces require concerted and integrated efforts," Morsi's statement said. His statement called on all to avoid wasting time and look forward to the future to achieve quick results for the Egyptian people.

"The world we live in has no room except for the strong," the statement said. The new Planning and International Cooperation Ministry is now led by Amr Darag, a top leader in the Brotherhood. The third minister affiliated with the Brotherhood is Agriculture Minister Ahmed el-Gizawy, who headed the Freedom and Justice party's agriculture committee.

There are new finance and oil ministers, but the reshuffle did not affect security posts like the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police. Prime Minister Hesham Kandil kept his job despite calls for his ouster from liberals and leftists as well as some Islamists.

Ahmed Suleiman is the new minister of justice. According to biographies

published in the media, Suleiman was a member of a

(AP Photo/Egyptian Presidency)

group opposing a judicial boycott on a controversial

Morsi-backed constitutional referendum in December. Morsi's government has tangled with the judiciary on several occasions in the past year.

New Finance Minister Fayad Ibrahim is an expert in sukuk, bonds that claim to be compliant with Islamic Shariah law. Morsi's government is pushing such bonds as a way to attract investment.

Kandil told reporters that the new economic team will build on what the outgoing ministers have accomplished, such as streamlining land investment laws and expediting investment proposals in Egypt's strategic Suez Canal region and port.

"Change in this phase, we think, will be useful," he said. □

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Authorities: 42 dead in Nigeria extremist attacks

HARUNA UMAR
Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)

— Coordinated attacks by Islamic extremists armed with heavy machine guns killed at least 42 people in northeast Nigeria, authorities said Tuesday, the latest in a string of increasingly bloody attacks threatening peace in Africa's most populous nation.

The attack struck multiple locations in the hard-hit town of Bama in Nigeria's Borno state, where shootings and bombings have continued unstopped since an insurgency began there in 2010. Fighters raided a federal prison during their assault as well, freeing 105 inmates in another mass prison break to hit the country, officials said.

What exactly happened in the attack remains unclear, though military spokesman Lt. Col. Sagir Musa said some 200 fighters in buses and pickup trucks mounted with machine guns attacked the barracks of the 202 Battalion of Nigeria's beleaguered army. Musa said two soldiers died in the attack, while some 10 insurgents died. However, the military routinely downplays their casualties in such assaults.

"They came in army uniform pretending to be soldiers but were able to detect them," Musa said.

The attackers struck the federal prison, killing 14 guards there, Musa said.

They also attacked and razed a police station, a police barracks, a magistrate's court and local government offices, the lieutenant colonel said.

At least 22 police officers, three children and a woman were killed in those attacks, said Bama police

ers bombed and burned to the ground there, making communication even more difficult for security officials and civilians as well in the region. At least 17 people died in an attack in Bama in late April alone.

Much of the violence has

committee to look at the idea of offering an amnesty deal to extremist fighters, Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, has dismissed the idea in messages.

The Islamic insurgency in Nigeria grew out of a 2009 riot led by Boko Haram



South African President Jacob Zuma, left, applauds as Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan prepares to give a speech in Cape Town, South Africa, Tuesday May 7, 2013. Coordinated attacks by Islamic extremists armed with heavy machine guns killed at least 42 people in northeast Nigeria, authorities said Tuesday. (AP Photo/Schalk van Zuydam)

commander Sagir Abubakar. He said officers killed three insurgents in the fighting.

Calls rang unanswered or couldn't connect Tuesday night to those living in Bama, a town 65 kilometers (40 miles) southeast of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state.

Repeated attacks by Islamic extremists have seen mobile phone tow-

been blamed on the extremist network known as Boko Haram, which means "Western education is sacrilege" in the Hausa language of Nigeria's north. That group has said it wants its imprisoned members freed and Nigeria to adopt strict Shariah law across the multiethnic nation of more than 160 million people.

While President Goodluck Jonathan has started a

members in Maiduguri that ended in a military and police crackdown that killed some 700 people. The group's leader died in police custody in an apparent execution. From 2010 on, Islamic extremists have engaged in hit-and-run shootings and suicide bombings, attacks that have killed more than 1,500 people, according to an Associated Press count. □

Japan to abide by apologies made for war

MARTIN FACKLER

© 2013 New York Times

TOKYO — Japan's conservative government will abide by official apologies that the country's leaders made two decades ago to the victims of World War II in Asia, top officials said Tuesday, backing away from earlier suggestions that the government might try to revise or even repudiate the apologies.

Japan formally apologized in 1993 to the women who were forced into wartime brothels for Japanese soldiers, and in 1995 to nations that suffered from Japanese aggression during the war. Both apologies rankled Japanese ultranationalists, and there were concerns that the hawkish prime minister, Shinzo Abe, would try to appeal to them by whitewashing Japan's wartime atrocities, a step that would probably infuriate Japan's neighbors. The concerns intensified last month when members of Abe's Cabinet visited a Tokyo shrine that honors Japanese war dead, including some who were executed for war crimes, drawing angry reactions from China and South Korea. Those nations also responded strongly a few days later when Abe seemed to question in Parliament whether Japan was actually the aggressor during the war.

On Tuesday, the Japanese foreign minister, Fumio Kishida, apparently sought to dispel those concerns, telling reporters that Abe shared the views expressed in the 1995 apology, which was made by a Socialist prime minister, Tomiichi Murayama. The chief Cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga, said the Abe government would not revise the 1993 apology, which formally recognized the military's responsibility in forcing women into sexual slavery. Abe, whose political base is in the right wing of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party, had called for revising one or both of those apologies before he became prime minister after elections in December. □

Haiti: Ban on protests day of Aristide hearing

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haiti's top police officer said Tuesday that all street demonstrations are banned for Wednesday, when former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide heads to court for a rare public outing that is expected to draw thousands of his supporters.

National Police director Godson Aurelius said Tuesday on Radio Vision 2000 that protests are prohib-

ited because police will be busy providing security for Aristide as he travels by caravan from his home and back. Officers also will be present along the route to the courthouse in downtown Port-au-Prince.

"If there are street protests, the police have the orders to break them," Aurelius warned. "Any street protests tomorrow will be illegal."

Aristide is due in court to answer questions from an investigative judge on the

unresolved case of a slain radio journalist. Jean Dominique, once a close friend to Aristide, was gunned down along with his security guard in the courtyard of his radio station in April 2000.

With the police ban on demonstrations, there were worries about possible street clashes. Thousands of Aristide's supporters are expected to show up outside the courthouse and rally on his behalf, which could lead to a con-

frontation with police.

The court hearing will be the first known time that Aristide has ventured outside his home since he returned to Haiti from his exile in March 2011. His only public appearance so far came when he made a few remarks about national reconciliation on television a few months later when President Michel Martelly paid him a visit at home as part of a series of meetings with former Haitian leaders. □



Under Full Sail:

Jolly Pirates on the Sea of Matrimony!

MALMOK- While the 85 ft teak schooner sailing ship was moored at Boca Catalina, Christian Bosnie and Willemijn Van Hagen celebrated good times aboard the Jolly Pirates recently with their wedding guests from Holland, local Water Sports friends and fellow band members from Mystical Connection.

With magic and wonder in the trade winds Chris and Willemijn said their "I Do's" and like all starry-eyed couples they pledged their love to each other. In keeping with the Jolly Pirates tradition, the couple exchanged the ship's bright orange life rings and sealed the deal with a kiss. As the sun set



into the horizon in a colorful kaleidoscope of color and with a full ship of friends and family to witness, cups of the ship's signature brew, Pirate's Poison were raised to toast the couples special day. Aye! Aye!

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to Aruba, open their own business and raise a family. Tatiana got her Dental Hygiene Degree in the State of Florida, where she also practiced her profession over the last few years. The dental field has always been her passion, and clients young and old rave about her gentle touch, thoroughness, and attention to detail. Tatiana also includes

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They want food that is safe and healthy and many people are left wondering where to start their search. The benefits of buying local can be great. But what does that mean? How local is local? What exactly is local grown food all about? Same day freshly picked from our farms to your tables, Island Fresh brings healthy, hearty, locally grown produce to consumers in Aruba.

Island Fresh has a close working relationship with the Land farm, where Ari Lichtenstein grows plants hydroponically. The result, Jeff Ghitman, Director of Island Fresh says, is healthier, fresher, better tasting, faster growing crops that be harvested year round and

delivered fresh twice per week to satisfy Aruba's appetite for locally grown produce.

We offer the Island's supermarkets, hotels and restaurants with the volume, consistency and service, which is difficult to get with local, highly perishable vegetables" says Jeff, whose company supplies grocers like Super Foods, New Food and Ling and Sons.

"We can't keep up with the demand for our produce, which is a good problem to have."

The central bureau of statistics indicates that Aruba imports over 30,000 metric tons of vegetables per year.

However, of this large figure all of it is imported and must go through a long supply chain, which affects the freshness of what is consumed.

If the local food movement is going to be more than a high priced hobby, there is going to be a strong need for further investment and





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support by the local and foreign community. As Jeff says, "If we are to succeed, this is going to be bigger than any one person or company, and is going to require that we all do our part in making Aruba a better and more sustainable place."

Innovations like these could make local food – now a mere 1-2% of what we eat here in Aruba – a larger part of the Aruban diet.

The trick will be "finding ways for local growers to provide enough volume for it to be cost effective," says Miguel Gomez, an agricultural economist at Cornell University. If that happens, supporting your neighborhood farmer might finally become as convenient and affordable as it is romantic and tasty.

For more information on the farm, their products and their projects visit: www.islandfresharuba.com



Novak Djokovic from Serbia take out his sock after he got injured during the match against Grigor Dimitrov from Russia at the Madrid Open tennis tournament, in Madrid, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Associated Press

Djokovic loses to Dimitrov in Madrid

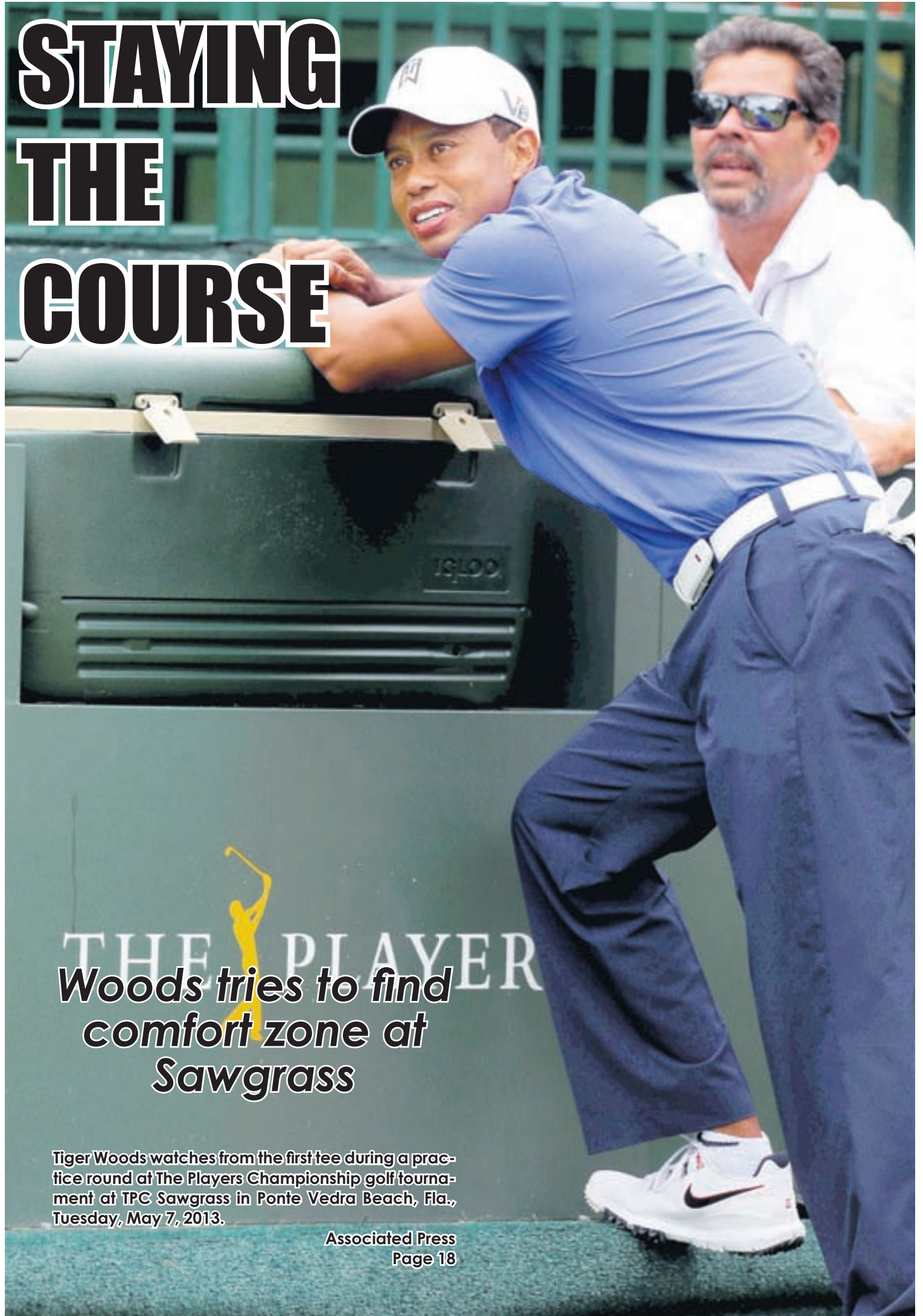
HAROLD HECKLE
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Grigor Dimitrov stunned Novak Djokovic in the second round of the Madrid Open on Tuesday, beating the top-ranked Serb 7-6 (6), 6-7 (8), 6-3 for the biggest win of his career.

The 28th-ranked Bulgarian saved three set points in the first before taking the lead, and Djokovic then appeared to hurt his right ankle when trailing 4-2 in the second. The Serbian player slipped on the baseline and winced in pain, then immediately called for a trainer and took a lengthy break to get treatment. The wait for the game to resume annoyed the crowd, who turned against Djokovic and began chanting Dimitrov's name. "I seriously didn't expect that," said the 21-year-old Bulgarian. "That was the one thing that of course cheered me up a lot."

Continued on Page 19

STAYING THE COURSE



Woods tries to find comfort zone at Sawgrass

Tiger Woods watches from the first tee during a practice round at The Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Associated Press
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TPC Sawgrass a mystery to the best players



Phil Mickelson, above, chips to the sixth green, and Tiger Woods, below, tees off on the fourth hole during practice rounds of the Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Associated Press



DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — The Players Championship should consider changing the name of its course to the TPC Mystery. The reason The Players is talked about as the next best thing to a major is because the field is the strongest and deepest in golf. Until the PGA Tour recently created a spot for the Senior Players Championship winner, anyone who teed it up on the TPC Sawgrass had as good a chance as the next guy. The mystery is trying to determine whose game best suits the golf course. The list of winners is impressive, though it doesn't offer concrete clues except that two-thirds are major champions. More curious is how infrequently some of the game's best players are even in the mix late Sunday afternoon. Start with Tiger Woods. He was runner-up in 2000 to Hal "Be the right club today" Sutton. He won in 2001 with that putt

on the island-green 17th that was better than most. And that's it. He tied for 10th one year and finished eighth another. Woods has played 15 times in his career, and he was at the height of his powers for more than half those years, when he could fall out of bed and contend. But at Sawgrass, he's had only two serious chances at winning. "There's no course that less people have worked out than this one," Geoff Ogilvy said upon leaving Sawgrass last year. "You get one or two chances in your career and you take them. It's a tournament Tiger has played 15 times and he's only contended twice. There's something odd there. Maybe that's the genius of the golf course. Or maybe that's the flaw of the golf course." But it's not just Woods. Phil Mickelson has won 41 times on the PGA Tour, second only to Woods in the last 25 years, with four major championships. He won The Players in 2007, right after switching over to Butch Harmon as his swing coach. And that was the only time he seriously contended at Sawgrass. He tied for third in 2004, but he was five shots behind Adam Scott. Vijay Singh, with 34 wins and three majors, was runner-up to Woods in 2001. In his 19 other appearances, he never finished higher than eighth. Singh won 17 times from 2003 through 2005. He didn't record a top 10 at The Players those years — he missed the cut in 2003 — and broke 70 twice. Ernie Els, another four-time major champion in the Hall of Fame, never had a good look at winning The Players. Those are the "Big Four" of their generation. That's a collective 72 appearances, two wins and only four chances at winning. Why? "No idea," said Padraig Harrington, who has ideas on everything. "I'm not sure how you would put it down. You pick four players, and it's not like all

four have the exact same game. Only four chances between them?" Johnny Miller never had much luck on this golf course, making only two cuts in eight attempts. It was still enough to give him an appreciation of Pete Dye's creation. "It's just a nervous tournament. It's a nervous week," Miller said. "That's why a lot of guys hardly do well here. It's a course that you have to tippy-toe around, and that's why Tiger ... he won it, but he's struggled here. And Phil has struggled here and he won it once. You just get a little glimpse of it once in a while when you can play well, and the rest of the time it just eats your lunch. It's really a fun event. You don't know what's going to happen." There are examples of top players who do well at The Players. Davis Love III, one of the game's best in his prime, won it twice. So did Fred Couples, and he had a couple of top 5s. Both have had plenty of weekends off at Sawgrass. But this is not a course they own, not the way Love owned Hilton Head or Couples had Augusta National and Riviera. Americans would call it "quirky." British players would call it "fiddly." A universal word might be "unpredictable." The objective a few years ago was for players to define the golf course in one word. The choices ranged from dramatic to demanding, from thrilling to uncomfortable. Ogilvy, perhaps the most knowledgeable among players when it comes to golf course design, couldn't think of a word. Four days later, while playing the final round, he walked off the 14th tee when he saw a reporter who had asked the question and said without prompting, "Annoying." It can be that for the best of them. There are a few things on which players would agree. While power is always an advantage in golf, length is not a big issue here. □



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Djokovic

Continued on Page 19

Djokovic — who ended Rafael Nadal's eight-year winning streak at the Monte Carlo Masters last month — said the loss had more to do with poor preparations than an injury.

"I didn't prepare myself so good," Djokovic said. "For 12 days after Monte Carlo I haven't touched the racket." Djokovic said he didn't understand why the crowd turned against him during the injury break.

"I don't see any reason for that. I didn't do anything bad," he said.

The crowd then displayed sympathy for Dimitrov when he appeared to suffer from cramps at 5-5 with the game at deuce, visibly upsetting the Serb.

Dimitrov, who suffered severe cramp last year at Roland Garros, said it didn't affect him as badly this time. "Today I was better, I was not crawling."

Earlier, defending cham-

pion Roger Federer looked comfortable on clay in his first match in two months, easing past Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-3 to reach the third round.

In the women's event, defending champion Serena Williams moved her title defense into the third round after beating Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain 6-2, 7-5.

The second-ranked Federer took a break after losing in the Indian Wells quarterfinals on hardcourt to Nadal, but instantly took to the slower red surface and broke early to take control of the first set. He then broke Stepanek three times in the second, losing his own serve once, to finish the win in 1 hour, 21 minutes.

"I'm very happy, because he has caused me difficulties in the past," Federer said about the 34-year-old Stepanek — who these days is one of the few players on tour older than the Swiss star.

"If I would be the only guy over 30, it would feel a bit awkward, to be honest," the 31-year-old Federer said.

Federer can equal John McEnroe's career tally of 77 titles if he defends the Madrid trophy, having won last year on the heavily criticized blue clay that organizers decided to get rid of for this tournament.

Like many of his fellow players, Federer said the traditional red surface was better. "They (organizers) spoke to more experts from the French Open and Monaco, and you can tell it's a proper clay court now," Federer said, adding that Madrid had issues with its courts even before switching to a blue surface. "I know that added to the whole controversy, the color, because of tradition and so forth. It was extremely slippery and the court wasn't taking the water well." Third-seeded Andy Murray had a tougher time against Florian Mayer before outlasting the



Roger Federer from Switzerland celebrates his victory during the match against Radek Stepanek from Czech Republic at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Associated Press

German 7-6 (11), 7-6 (3).

Murray said he struggled with the altitude and found it hard to breathe at the end of the first set where "there were so many long points."

Madrid is 660 meters (2,180 feet) above sea level. The Scotsman said Mayer's array of shots also made it difficult by varying the pace constantly.

"It's hard to explain, but

if you're playing someone that plays with a nice rhythm it's a lot easier to breathe during the points," Murray said.

No. 13 Tommy Haas of Germany and No. 15 Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland were among other seeded players to advance, while No. 8 Richard Gasquet of France lost 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 to Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain. □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Rangers hold off Caps, Red Wings down Ducks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Derek Stepan and Arron Asham both scored tiebreaking goals in the third period for the New York Rangers in a 4-3 victory over the Washington Capitals in Game 3 on Monday.

The Rangers finally found their offense and got back into their first-round playoff series. New York still trails 2-1 in the Eastern Conference series, with Game 4 here Wednesday night.

Stepan gave the Rangers the lead for good with 6:25 remaining when he deftly tipped in a pass in front from Rick Nash. Asham had put New York in front 3-2 at 2:53, but Jay Beagle got the Capitals even again 4:26 later.

Derick Brassard had a goal and two assists for the Rangers, who managed only one goal in the first two losses in Washington and hadn't scored since the first period of Game 1 — a scoreless stretch of 124 minutes, 6 seconds. That streak was broken by Brian Boyle's first-period goal that made it 1-1.



Washington Capitals left wing Martin Erat, of the Czech Republic, and New York Rangers right wing Derek Dorsett (15) are upended after colliding in the first period of Game 3 of their first-round NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoff series in New York, Monday, May 6, 2013. The Rangers won 4-3.

Associated Press

RED WINGS 3, DUCKS 2, OT
DETROIT (AP) — Damien Brunner scored with 4:50 left in overtime to lift Detroit to a series-evening win over Anaheim.

Detroit defenseman Jakub Kindl started the winning sequence, passing the puck from behind Detroit's net up the ice to Joakim

Andersson. He tried to connect with teammate Gustav Nyquist only to have Hiller poke the puck away. Brunner, playing in his first NHL season, was in perfect position in front of the net and swatted in the puck to end the game.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Anaheim and

Game 6 is back in the Motor City on Friday night.

During the Red Wings' run of playing in 22 straight postseasons, they have won 11 of 19 series that were tied at 2-2.

Pavel Datsyuk scored a second tying goal for the Red Wings with 6:33 left in regulation. Brendan Smith

made it 1-1 early in the third.

Matt Beleskey gave the Ducks their first lead 5:07 into the game and David Steckel put them ahead midway through the third period.

Hiller, who shut out Detroit in Game 3, stopped the first 32 shots and finished with 46 saves. Jimmy Howard had 31 saves for the Red Wings.

BRUINS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Boston spoiled the return of playoff hockey to Toronto, scoring two quick goals in the second period in a victory over the Maple Leafs.

Adam McQuaid, Rich Peverley, Nathan Horton, Daniel Paille and David Krejci, with an empty-net goal with 1:17 remaining, scored for Boston.

The win came before 19,746 fans inside the Air Canada Centre. Outside, a blue-and-white throng watched on a big screen in Maple Leaf Square as playoff hockey returned to Toronto for the first time since 2004.

After being beaten 4-2 in Boston on Saturday night, the Bruins upped their game. The Leafs, meanwhile, made mistakes and were punished, although they tried to close the gap with a busy third period in which they outshot the visitors 18-6. The Leafs finished with a 47-38 edge in shots. Game 4 is Wednesday in Toronto, with Boston leading 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

The dominant line of Milan Lucic, Krejci and Horton finished with two goals and six assists. They have combined for 17 points through the first three postseason games, with five goals and 12 assists.

Jake Gardiner and Phil Kessel replied for Toronto in a physical game.

KINGS 4, BLUES 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anze Kopitar leveled it with 12:46 to play and Justin Williams tipped home the go-ahead goal 76 seconds later as Los Angeles evened its first-round series with St. Louis. □

Arencibia's 9th-inning HR lifts Toronto over Rays

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — J.P. Arencibia hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning off Fernando Rodney as the Toronto Blue Jays completed their comeback from a seven-run deficit, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 8-7 on Monday night.

The last time Toronto rallied from at least seven runs down to win was June 5, 2007, when it overcame an 8-1 margin to beat Tampa Bay 12-11, according to STATS LLC.

Tampa Bay last lost a lead of at least seven runs was May 25, 2009, when Cleveland came back from a 10-0 deficit to win 11-10.

This time, Evan Longoria hit his third career grand slam as Tampa Bay built a 7-0 lead that Jeremy Hellickson and four relievers failed to protect before a season-low crowd of 9,952 at Tropicana Field.



Toronto Blue Jays' J.P. Arencibia watches his two-run home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Monday, May 6, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

Toronto trailed 7-6 when Adam Lind drew a leadoff walk against Rodney (1-1). Pinch-runner Emilio Bonifacio stole second and continued to third on catcher Jose Molina's throwing error with no outs.

Rodney retired the next two batters before Aren-

cibia lined a 2-2 pitch into the left-field seats.

Darren Oliver (1-1) got the win and Casey Janssen worked a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

RED SOX 6, TWINS 5, 11 INNING

BOSTON (AP) — Stephen Drew doubled in the win-

ning run with two outs in the 11th inning as the Red Sox snapped a season-high, three-game losing streak.

Drew, who entered the game batting .182, homered and had four hits. Dustin Pedroia hit a solo shot in the eighth for a 5-4 lead, but Joel Hanrahan gave up Brian Dozier's homer in the ninth and left one out later with right forearm tightness.

Clayton Mortensen (1-2) earned the win with 2 1-3 innings of scoreless relief. Pedroia and Shane Victorino had three hits apiece, and David Ortiz doubled in the eighth to extend his hitting streak to 26 games.

Jared Burton (0-1) retired his first two batters in the 11th, then gave up a swinging bunt single to Jarrod Saltalamacchia when the pitcher's throw pulled first baseman Justin Morneau off the bag. □



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Goldschmidt, Cahill lead D-backs over Dodgers 9-2

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Trevor Cahill drove in Arizona's first two runs with his first major league triple as the Diamondbacks sent the Los Angeles Dodgers to their fifth straight loss, 9-2 on Monday night.

Cahill (2-3) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings, improving to 5-0 with a 2.10 ERA in eight starts against the Dodgers. Chris Capuano (0-2) gave up six runs — five earned — and eight hits in four-plus innings as Los Angeles dropped to a season-high five games under .500 at 13-18.

Paul Goldschmidt and Cody Ross hit consecutive homers in the fourth after a glaring error by left fielder Carl Crawford, helping Arizona to just its second win in seven games.

PHILLIES 6, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Cliff Lee (3-2) allowed two runs and five hits in eight innings, struck out six and walked none to outpitch fellow southpaw Madison Bumgarner. Lee is 5-0 with a 0.88 ERA in six regular-season starts against the Giants.

Michael Young hit a two-run double, Hunter Pence hit a solo homer, double and single against his former club and Domonic Brown hit a solo home run as the Phillies stopped the World Series champion's season-best six-game winning streak.

Bumgarner (3-1) gave up five runs and eight hits in six innings. He is 0-1 in four outings following a 3-0 start.

PADRES 5, MARLINS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Andrew Cashner (2-2) pitched a career-high 7 1-3 innings of

four-hit ball and combined with

Dale Thayer on a five-hitter in front of a season-low crowd of 14,596 at Petco Park. Miami was shut out for the fifth time this season, tying Atlanta and Philadelphia for most in the majors. The Marlins are last in the big leagues with a .226 team batting average and 98 runs this season.

Wade LeBlanc (0-5) allowed four runs — three earned — and four hits over five innings in his first career start against his former team. He is 0-7 with a 6.35 ERA in his last 12 appearances dating to last season.

BRAVES 7, REDS 4

CINCINNATI (AP) — Andrelton Simmons homered twice and drove in a career-high four runs, helping stop Cincinnati's three-game winning streak.

Paul Maholm (4-3) allowed four hits and two runs in 5 2-3 innings, and Craig Kimbrel gave up a pair of singles in the ninth before fanning Joey Votto for his 10th save. Cincinnati stranded five runners in scoring position.

Atlanta scored in four of five innings against Bronson Arroyo (2-4), who gave up four runs, eight hits and two walks in his shortest outing this season.

CUBS 9, RANGERS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Scott Feldman (3-3) allowed two hits in seven scoreless innings against his former team before leaving with a cramp in his pitching hand. Chicago Cubs came within three outs of its first shutout since Aug. 26. Texas scored a pair of unearned runs in the ninth after a throwing error by third baseman Luis

Valbuena. Anthony Rizzo had three hits, four RBIs and his ninth home run as the Cubs stopped a four-game losing streak, and set season highs for runs and victory margin.

Tepesch (2-3) gave up six runs — five earned — six hits and four walks in four innings. □



Arizona Diamondbacks' Paul Goldschmidt, right, is congratulated by Cody Ross, left, as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis looks on after Goldschmidt hit a two-run home run during the fifth inning of their baseball game, Monday, May 6, 2013, in Los Angeles.
Associated Press



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By: Dr Carlos Viana

Healthy Pregnancy

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asthma, secondhand smoke can make episodes more frequent and more severe. Secondhand smoke is also tied to infections of the lower respiratory tract, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, especially in those younger than 6. It's also associated with irritation of the upper respiratory tract and a small reduction in lung function. Children living in households with smokers are more likely to develop ear infections.

Nutrition is an important part of a healthy pregnancy and baby. You will want to eat the freshest possible organic foods that are beneficial according to your blood type. Additionally, supplementation with lectin which has been shown to enhance the brain development of your baby; women, who take lecithin supplements while pregnant and breastfeeding, have been shown to have babies with larger brains that exhibit faster cognitive development. B - Complex vitamins are essential. Women who are or may become pregnant should be supplementing with the following vitamins. Folic acid is a water-soluble vitamin belonging to the B-complex group of vitamins. These vitamins help the body break down complex carbohydrates into simple sugars to be used for energy. Excess B vitamins are excreted from the body rather than stored for later use. Birth control pills stimulate more of these vitamins to be lost. This is one reason why sufficient daily intake of folic acid is necessary. Always be sure to check with a clinical nutritionist for proper usage of any supplement is you are pregnant.

The second is to prevent neural tube defects in your baby. The two major neural tube birth defects

reduced by adequate folic acid intake are anencephaly and spina bifida. Babies with anencephaly do not develop a brain and are stillborn or die shortly after birth. Those with spina bifida have a defect of the spinal column that can result in varying degrees of handicap, from mild and hardly noticeable cases of scoliosis, a sideways bending of the spine, to paralysis and bladder or bowel incontinence. With medical treatment, most babies born with spina bifida can survive to adulthood. But they may require leg braces, crutches, and other devices to help them walk, and they may have learning disabilities. About 30 percent have slight to severe mental retardation.

Enough pregnant women become anemic during their pregnancy that doctors often prescribe iron supplements. Most maternal supplements may contain 30 mg or more of iron per dose, in combination with vitamins or other minerals. While it is true that iron is a basic requirement for the survival and growth of cells of all types, including bacteria, parasites, and cancer, as a certified clinical nutritionist, supplementing with iron concerns me. Accidental iron overdose is a leading cause of poisoning deaths in children under 6 in the United States. Some researchers are even stating that iron added to cereals may be contributing to the incidence of leukemia and cancers of the lymphatic tissues in children.

Additionally, many women cannot stomach these maternal supplements, especially when burdened with morning sickness. The idea that women need extra iron is a mistake. Doctors generally don't re-

alize that only a few milligrams of iron are lost each day in menstruation. The real issue is that you can hardly avoid getting iron, even when you try. Women absorb iron much more efficiently than men do. From a similar meal, women will normally absorb three times as much iron as men do. Iron is a potentially toxic heavy metal. In excess, it can cause cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses. In the 1960s the World Health Organization found that when iron supplements were given to anemic people in Africa, there was a great increase in the death rate from infectious diseases. In our clinic we use results from blood chemistry analysis and hair tests to check for toxic heavy metals, including mercury and other elements found in dental amalgams, pesticides and many of the 300+ chemicals we live with daily, all of these can contribute to the health of your unborn child.

Biocompatible dentistry is one way we use to eliminate some of these dangerous toxins; however it is not advisable to have dental work done while pregnant. Even a simple procedure like the annual teeth hygiene cleaning has been shown to release mercury from amalgam fillings. There are several acupuncture points that are contraindicated, called "forbidden points" during pregnancy that every trained acupuncturist knows well. Yet, many problems encountered during pregnancy including "morning sickness", especially that lasts all day, overly active babies, low back pain, high blood pressure during pregnancy all show positive effects with acupuncture treatments. Other safe, natural

solutions are available for an unexpected cold, flu, stress or mild allergy attack.

Get The Point! A healthy pregnancy has a much better chance of producing healthy children. If we invest as much time in preparing our health as we spend getting the house ready for the newborn, we will have healthier children. With a little medical and nutritional guidance your pregnancy can be a naturally joyous event.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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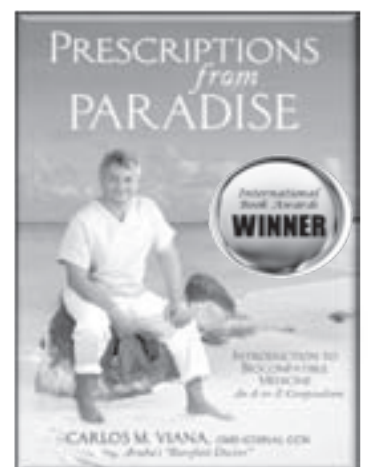
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Microsoft touching up Windows 8 to address gripes

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Microsoft is retooling the latest version of its Windows operating system to address complaints and confusion that have been blamed for deepening a slump in personal computer sales.

The tune up announced Tuesday won't be released to consumers and businesses until later this year. The changes, part of a software package given the codename "Blue," are a tacit acknowledgment of the shortcomings in Windows 8, a radical overhaul of Microsoft Corp.'s ubiquitous operating system.

With the makeover it released last October, Microsoft hoped to play a more prominent role in the growing mobile device market while still maintaining its dominance in PCs. But Windows 8's design, which emphasizes interactive tiles and touch controls, seems to have befuddled as many people as it has impressed. One leading research firm, International Data Corp., says Windows 8 contributed to a 14 percent decline in worldwide PC sales during the first three months of the year — the biggest year-over-year drop ever.

Meanwhile, sales of smartphones and tablet computers are booming. The biggest beneficiaries have been Apple Inc., the mak-

er of the iPhone and iPad, and Samsung Electronics Co., which sells the most devices running on Google Inc.'s Android software. Google is also benefiting from Android's popularity through increased traffic to its services, creating more opportunities for the company to display ads.

By contrast, leading PC makers such as Hewlett-Packard Co. and Dell Inc., which primarily sell Windows-powered machines, have been mired in a financial funk that has battered their stocks and raised questions about their futures.

Despite the troubling signs, Microsoft insists it's pleased with Windows 8's performance. The company, which is based in Redmond, Washington, says more than 100 million Windows 8 licenses have been sold so far, up from about 60 million licenses in January. The licensing volume "is in the same general ballpark," as Microsoft's previous operating system — Windows 7 — at a similar juncture of its sales cycle, according to Tami Reller, who serves as the marketing and financial chief for Microsoft's Windows business. In an interview, Reller said Microsoft still realized changes need to be made to make Windows 8 easier to navigate and capable of taking full advantage of technology improvements that have come out since

October.

"Are there things that we can do to improve the experience? Absolutely," Reller said. "There is a learning curve (to Windows 8) and we can work to address that."

For now, Microsoft isn't saying what kind of changes will be introduced with the release of Blue, which the company plans to anoint

of Windows 8, finally giving everyone a fully baked version," said technology analyst Patrick Moorhead. "It has been a very rough road for Microsoft so far."

If Blue is meant to make people more comfortable, the changes may incorporate more of the elements from earlier versions of Windows.

A common complaint has

as "charms" in Windows 8's parlance — that currently must be pulled out from the right side of a display screen.

Besides responding to customer feedback, Blue also will make Windows 8 better suited for smaller, less expensive tablets with 7- and 8-inch display screens, Reller said. She declined to say whether Microsoft intends to make smaller version of its own Surface tablets. In a conference call with analysts last month, Microsoft Chief Financial Officer Peter Klein said the company was working with other manufacturers to make smaller tablets.

Moorhead also believes Blue will bring more built-in programs, such as a video editor and audio recorder, to Windows 8 and may also include other improvements. One thing that Blue won't fix: the relatively small selection of mobile applications tailored for Windows 8. Reller said the Windows 8 store now has more than 60,000 apps. By contrast, there are more than 800,000 apps available for Apple's mobile devices, too. In one of the most glaring omissions on Windows 8, Facebook Inc. still hasn't designed an app to make its online social network more accessible on that system. Facebook has about 750 million mobile users. □



Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer gives his presentation at the launch of Microsoft Windows 8, in New York, in this Oct. 25, 2012 file photo. Associated Press

with a different name when the update is available. Microsoft also isn't saying whether it will charge existing owners of Windows 8 devices to get the fixes in Blue. The company plans to release Blue in time for the holiday season.

Reller said more details about Blue will be released before Microsoft holds a developers conference in San Francisco in late June. Some of Blue's features are expected to be previewed at that conference.

"I view this as a relaunch

centered on the lack of a "start" button in the Windows 8 menu. Other critics have pined for an option that would allow the system to begin in a desktop mode suited for running applications designed for earlier versions of the operating system. Windows 8 currently starts off showing a mosaic of interactive tiles tailored for swiping through programs with a finger instead of using a computer mouse. Blue also might make it easier to find a set of controls — known

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DJIA punches through milestone: closes above 15,000

Continued from front

But people do get more excited when they see new highs."

Record-high profits have also encouraged investors who fretted that slumping sales would lead to shrinking earnings. More than 400 of the S&P 500 companies have turned in first-quarter results, and more than seven out of 10 have beaten Wall Street's earnings expectations, according to S&P Capital IQ. Those analysts estimate that earnings increased 5 percent in the first quarter and will pick up their pace through the rest of the year.

Fossil, a maker of watches and handbags, was among the companies reporting earnings Tuesday. Its stock leapt \$8.92, or 9 percent, to \$107.88 after the company said higher sales lifted its earnings. DirecTV, the largest U.S. provider of satellite TV services, surged \$3.99, or 7 percent, to \$61.95 after its earnings beat analysts' expectations. The company reported more subscribers in the U.S. and Latin America.

For the Dow, it was the 17th straight Tuesday of increases. The only day of the week with a longer series of consecutive gains is Wednesday, which logged a streak of 24, Detrick said. In other trading, the Nasdaq composite rose 3.66 points to 3,396.63, up 0.1 percent.

Japanese stocks surged, pushing the Nikkei above 14,000 for the first time in nearly five years. The Nikkei has jumped 36 percent this year after the Bank of Japan announced a new aggressive monetary policy to get the country out of its two-decade stagnation. In Europe, Germany's main DAX index touched a record of 8,195, buoyed by surprisingly strong industrial orders.

Detrick said he was particularly encouraged by the resurgence in smaller stocks, which suggested a broad recovery beyond larger companies. The Russell 2000 index of small



A board at the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, May 7, 2013, shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average. The DJIA punched through another milestone Tuesday: its first close above 15,000.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

companies has gained 14 percent this year.

In the market for U.S. government bonds, the yield

on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note edged up to 1.78 percent from 1.76 percent in late Monday trading. Op-

timism over the U.S. economy has yanked the yield up over the past week, as traders shift money out of

the safety of the Treasury market. The yield sank to its low for the year, 1.63 percent, last Thursday. □

Survey:

US home prices up 10.5% in past year

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A survey shows U.S. home prices rose 10.5 percent in March compared with a year ago, the biggest gain since March 2006.

Core Logic, a real estate data provider, said Tuesday that annual home prices have now increased for 13 straight months. Prices are rising in part because more buyers are bidding on a limited supply of homes for sale.

Prices increased in 46 states over the past year — 11 of them posting double-digit gains. And when excluding distressed sales, which include foreclosures and short sales, prices rose in every state. A short sale is when a home sells for less than what is owed on the mortgage.

Nevada led all states with a 22.2 percent annual gain. It was followed by California (17.2 percent), Arizona (16.8 percent), Idaho (14.5

percent) and Oregon (14.3 percent).

Home prices also rose 1.9 percent in March from

percent in March from a year earlier, the largest gain of any city. Los Angeles, Riverside, California, At-

ply of homes for sale, has pushed prices higher.

The number of homes for sale fell nearly 17 percent in March compared with a year ago.

That supply would be exhausted in about 4.7 months at the current sales pace.

That's below the 6 months of supply that is typical in a healthy market.

Rising home prices can help sustain the housing rebound and lift the economy. More potential homebuyers may seek to purchase a house before prices rise further. And homeowners are more likely to put their houses on the market once they expect a good price.

Higher home values also boost Americans' overall net worth. That can encourage consumers to spend more, driving more economic growth. Consumer spending accounts for roughly 70 percent of economic activity. □



Photo shows a home for sale in Auburn, N.H. A survey shows U.S. home prices rose 10.5 percent in March compared with a year ago, the biggest gain since March 2006.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

February, signaling a solid start to the spring buying season. And 88 of the 100 largest cities reported price gains compared with a year earlier, down slightly from 92 in February.

Prices in Phoenix rose 18.8

lanta and Houston posted the next largest gains.

Steady job creation and record-low mortgage rates have boosted home sales and construction in the past year. More demand, along with a limited sup-

Disney 2Q results beat Street; lifted by parks, movies

R. NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Revenue gains at Disney's parks and movie studio led to a 32 percent increase in net income during the January-March quarter. The results, which topped analyst expectations Tuesday, showed that the company's record-setting investments in a new cruise ship and multiple theme park upgrades last year are starting to pay off. Net income grew to \$1.51 billion, or 83 cents per share. Factoring out one-time items, adjusted earnings came to 79 cents per share, beating the 77 cents expected by analysts surveyed by FactSet. Revenue grew 10 percent to \$10.55 billion, also topping the \$10.49 billion expected by analysts. Parks and resorts revenue rose 14 percent to \$3.30 billion, thanks to higher attendance and guest spending at U.S. parks in Anaheim, California, and Orlando, Florida. "People have been looking for parks to really step it up. We saw them really step it up in this quarter," said Barton Crocket, an analyst with brokerage Lazard Capital Markets. The results were also boosted by the Disney Fantasy cruise ship, which launched in March of last year. Movie studio revenue grew 13 percent to \$1.34 billion, and the division returned to profitability following a bruising \$200 million write-down last year after the sci-fi action movie "John Carter" flopped. Revenue from TV networks like ESPN grew 6 percent to \$4.96 billion. Although fees from distributors powered ESPN revenues higher, audiences and ad revenue fell at broadcast network ABC. Disney's investment in parks fell by nearly half to \$1.1 billion in the first six months of the fiscal year, from \$2.1 billion a year ago. Analysts hope the decline in capital spending means the company will return more cash to shareholders in the form of more share buybacks. □

Coke in major expansion of Florida orange groves

TAMARA LUSH

Associated Press

AUBURNDALE, Florida (AP)

— The Coca-Cola Co. says it is spending \$2 billion to support the planting of 25,000 acres (10,000 hectares) of new orange groves in Florida, a move officials are lauding as a major investment in the Sunshine State's citrus industry. The announcement is being made at a late-morning news conference at Coca-Cola's juice production plant in Auburndale. Details were released in advance to The Associated Press. Coca-Cola owns the Minute Maid and Simply juice brands. "It's an investment in a market that's very important to us," said Steve Cahillane, the president of Coca-Cola

la Americas.

Some 5 million new trees will be planted in the new groves, believed to be the largest citrus addition in the state for at least 15 years. The groves will be located in Polk, DeSoto and Hendry counties in central Florida. Company officials say the new groves and resulting juice production are expected to add about 4,100 jobs to Florida's economy. The move also is seen as a boost to historically declining acreage devoted to citrus production in Florida. During the state's past housing boom, many citrus farmers sold their land to developers. Since 1997, total citrus acreage has fallen by 25 percent, from 600,000 acres (240,000 hectares) to 450,000 acres (180,000

hectares) because of the disease, pests and other pressures, according to Florida Citrus Mutual. Coca-Cola officials said that the Florida Citrus Commission is working on an economic study centered on the company's investment, and that a preliminary draft shows that over the course of 25 years the expansion will add more than \$10.5 billion — or \$422 million per year — to Florida's economy. Company officials said Coca-Cola buys a third of all Florida oranges. Coca-Cola reported its first-quarter results in mid-April; they topped Wall Street expectations as sales volume rose in emerging markets. Shares of Coca-Cola Co. rose nearly 6 percent to \$42.37 and touched their

highest point since the late 1990s.

Cahillane said that the company also purchases juice from Brazil, Florida's biggest competitor in the juice industry.

He said that different harvest times in each location allow the company to give customers "consistent, great tasting juice."

"About 90 percent of Florida's oranges are used for juice;

by contrast, the majority of California's orange crop is sold as fresh fruit. Florida is second in the world for orange juice production, behind Brazil.

Florida's citrus crop suffered huge losses this past season due to warm, dry weather, too much fruit on each tree and citrus greening disease. □

US consumers cut back on credit card use in March



A woman shops at a Nordstrom store in Chicago. The Federal Reserve reports how much consumers borrowed in March on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Americans cut back on using their credit cards in March, suggesting many were reluctant to take on high-interest debt to make purchases. Consumer borrowing rose just \$8 billion in March from February to a seasonally adjusted \$2.81 trillion, the Federal Reserve said Tuesday. It was the smallest increase in eight months. The gain was driven entirely by more loans to attend school and buy cars. The

category that measures those loans increased \$9.7 billion to \$19.6 trillion. A measure of credit card debt fell \$1.7 billion to \$846 billion. That's 17.2 percent below the peak of \$1.022 trillion set in July 2008. Since the recession, consumers have been more cautious about using credit cards. Economists believe consumers will stay cautious this year, in part because of an increase in Social Security taxes that has reduced take-home pay for most Americans. Cooper Howes, an econo-

mist at Barclays, said consumers have been trying to get better control of their debts since the recession hit and he predicted this trend will continue. While the Fed does not release a breakdown between auto and student loans, Howes said his analysis of the Fed data indicates that almost 80 percent of the March increase reflected student loans. That would continue a pattern seen in recent years: Americans who lost jobs or recent graduates who can't find work have

returned to school and are taking out loans to pay for their education.

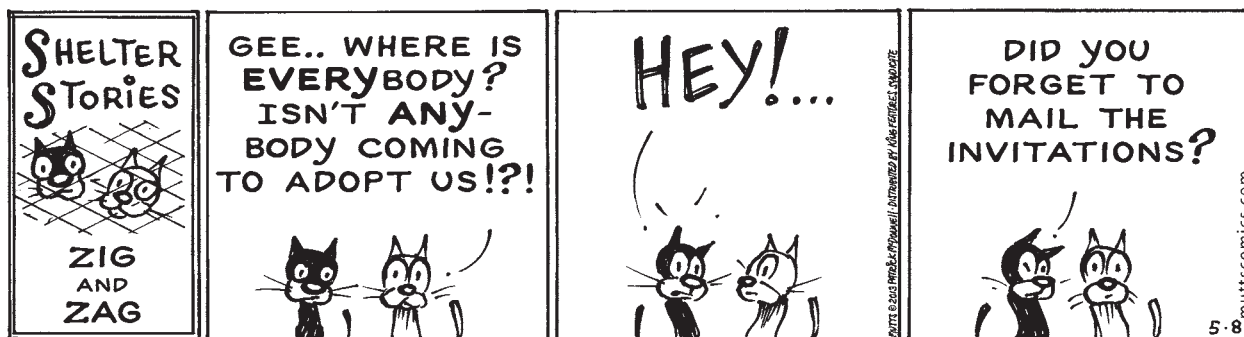
According to quarterly data compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student loan debt has been the biggest driver of borrowing since the recession ended in June 2009. Student loans reached \$966 billion in last year's fourth quarter. That's up from \$675 billion in the second quarter of 2009, when the Great Recession was ending. Consumers increased their spending from January through March at the fastest pace in more than two years. However, they had to trim the pace of their savings to finance the faster spending. Their after-tax income dropped by the largest amount since the final three months of the recession in 2009. Part of the drop in after-tax income reflected the increase in Social Security taxes that took effect on Jan. 1.

A person earning \$50,000 a year will have about \$1,000 less to spend this year. A household with two highly paid workers will have up to \$4,500 less.

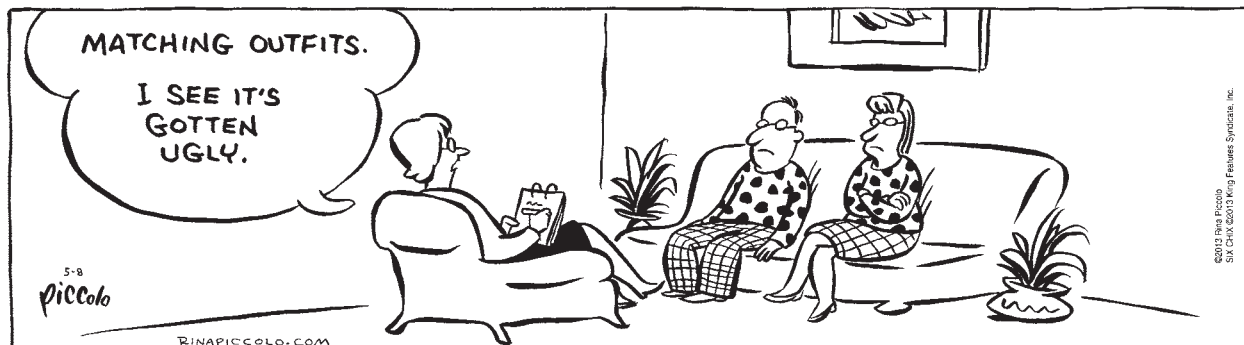
Solid hiring could offset some of the drag from the tax increase. □

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

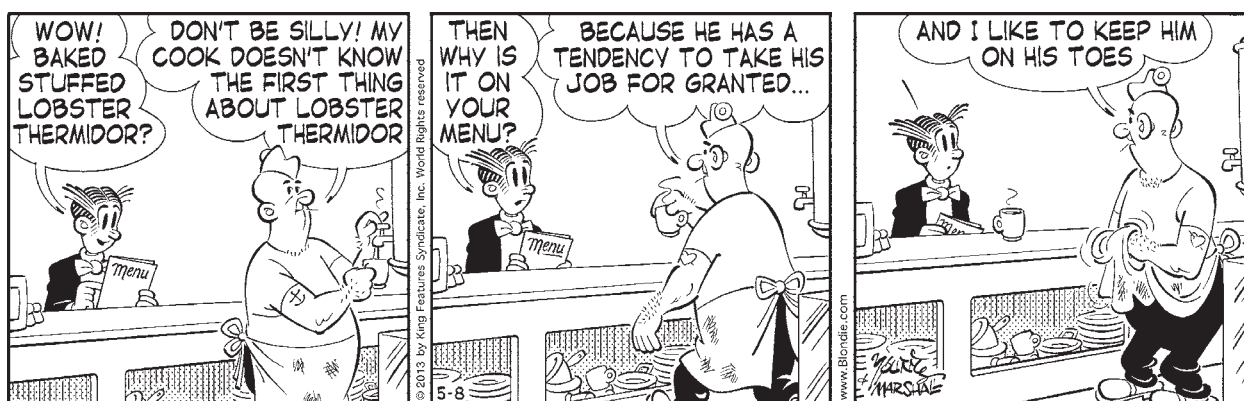
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



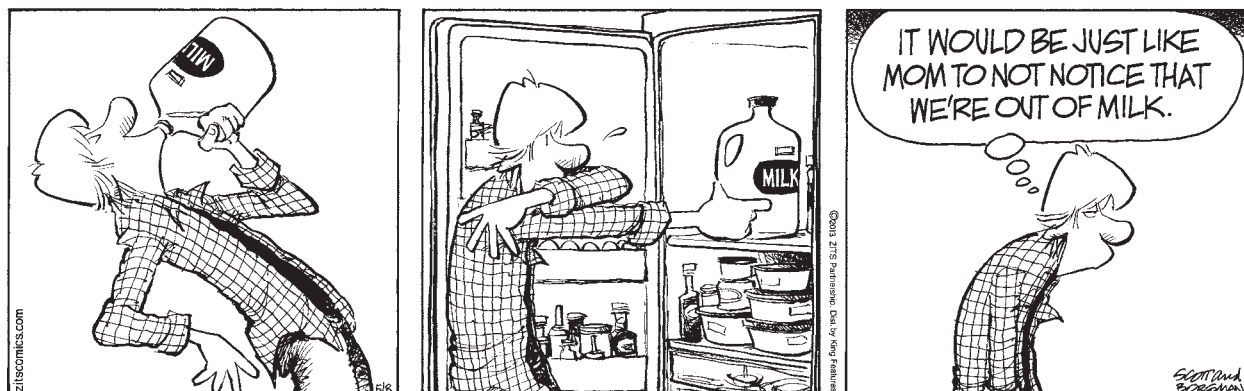
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4		7				8		
	6		5		4		2	
		1				7		
	2		1		8		3	7
				4				
	8	5	7	9	6	1	4	
		6				5		
		3				2		
			9	6	1			

Difficulty Level ★★

5/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

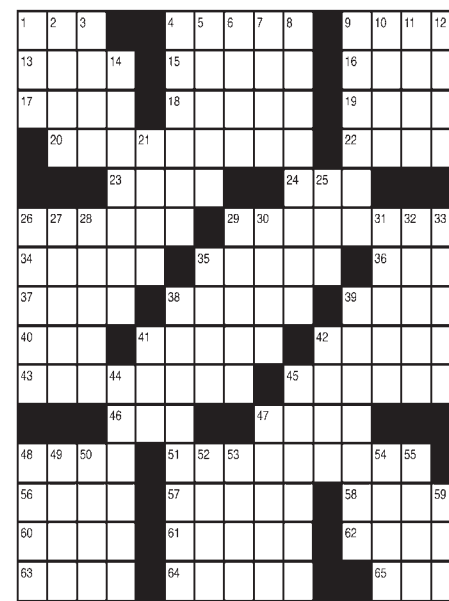
Yesterday's puzzle answer	8	3	1	4	7	9	5	2	6
	9	4	5	2	6	1	8	3	7
	6	7	2	8	5	3	4	9	1
	1	6	4	7	9	2	3	5	8
	7	5	3	6	8	4	9	1	2
	2	8	9	3	1	5	6	7	4
	3	9	7	1	4	8	2	6	5
	5	1	8	9	2	6	7	4	3
	4	2	6	5	3	7	1	8	9

ACROSS

- 1 ___ for; choose
4 Thread holder
9 Be in need of
13 Cuisine
15 Piece of garlic
16 Competent
17 ___ and aft; bow to stern
18 Demolishes, as a building
19 Cruel
20 Residents of a British capital
22 ___ up; tallies
23 Dissolve
24 Go astray
26 Tel Aviv, ___
29 Ores
34 Foil or épée
35 Looked toward
36 Red or Dead
37 Faucet problem
38 Boston ___ beans
39 Reach across
40 Koch & Asner
41 Cooked in oil
42 Irritate
43 Homesteaders
45 Car you can use temporarily
46 Color
47 Knitting stitch
48 Urgent request
51 Singer Aguilera
56 Rich soil
57 Familiar old hangout
58 Bank teller's cry
60 Bad guy
61 Privileged class
62 Strong wind
63 Puts on
64 Hombre's title
65 Conducted

DOWN

- 1 ___ one's rocker; crazy
2 Swimming spot
3 Spanish bull
4 Torah, for one
5 Sow
6 Seep out
7 All ___; everywhere



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/8/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

ADDS	ILIAD	ARMS
REAP	DODGE	NEAT
TALL	ATOLL	GALA
SLEIGHTS	EAGERLY	
	GOO	MAYOR
RODEO	RAM	REACH
OWES	PUN	REDSEA
ALL	BAGHDAD	CAL
DETAIL	OAT	COST
STALK	FLY	KATES
	BELIE	FIB
DEMERIT	RAMADAN	
OVER	AFOUL	ROPE
LENT	RUBES	EVES
ENDS	SLIDE	TEST

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5/8/13

- 44 Second longest river in the UK
45 Sheen
47 Horse with a splotchy coat
48 Trudge
49 Company symbol in a letterhead
50 Make, as a salary
52 Robust
53 Destroy
54 Actor McDonough
55 Wheel rod
59 Knight or Kennedy

Plan B's availability draws concerns of parents

Shelia Poole

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

ATLANTA -- Carla Mannings considers herself to be a pretty open-minded mother. She and her 16-year-old daughter talk about everything under the sun. Boys. Friendships. How a girl's body changes as she gets older.

But the mother of two disagrees with a recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration plan to make the Plan B One-Step morning-after pill available over the counter to girls as young as 15 with proof of age. The age for the single-dose pill was previously 17.

"They're still talking about what happens at cheerleading and dance," she said. "The logic and maturity level is just not there. And if they rely on each other for advice, it's like the blind leading the blind. To give that responsibility to a minor is inferring that that minor has a maturity level to not only have sexual intercourse but to make decisions about what to do later."

But Monica Simpson, executive director of SisterSong, an Atlanta-based reproductive justice organiza-

tion for women of color, sees things differently.

She said she worries about people who may struggle to gain access to health care or who may not have a good relationship with their parents. "Girls are growing up much faster," Simpson said. "Girls are having sex at 15. This is an opportunity for women to be able to make decisions to choose a different course in their lives."

The FDA's decision has opened wider a Pandora's box of controversy over the use of emergency contraceptives that perhaps has never really been closed. It's gained steam in recent years as battles have waged in state legislatures and Washington over abortion and reproductive rights.

In another matter, a federal judge wants to make another morning-after pill -- two-dose Plan B -- available to all women, regardless of age. The U.S. Justice Department is appealing that ruling.

Suzanne L. Ward, the mother of an adult daughter and director of public relations and education for Georgia Right to Life, said

the FDA's move takes parents out of the loop.

"It floors me that when my daughter was in school, she couldn't have a cough drop or aspirin without my permission," said Ward. "It's mind-boggling to me that they would take this once-prescription drug and release it to 15-year-old children." Although it has declined from previous years, nearly half, or 47 percent, of all high school students reported ever having sexual intercourse in 2011, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2011, the CDC also reports, more than 329,000 babies were born to women ages 15 through 19. □

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199449

Encroaching sea already a threat in Caribbean

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

TELESCOPE, Grenada (AP)

— The old coastal road in this fishing village at the eastern edge of Grenada sits under a couple of feet of murky saltwater, which regularly surges past a hastily-erected breakwater of truck tires and bundles of driftwood intended to hold back the Atlantic Ocean.

For Desmond Augustin and other fishermen living along the shorelines of the southern Caribbean island, there's nothing theoretical about the threat of rising sea levels.

"The sea will take this whole place down," Augustin said as he stood on the stump of one of the uprooted palm trees that line the shallows off his village of tin-roofed shacks built on stilts. "There's not a lot we can do about it except move higher up."

The people along this vulnerable stretch of eastern Grenada have been watching the sea eat away at their shoreline in recent decades, a result of destructive practices such as the extraction of sand for construction and ferocious storm surges made worse by climate change, according to researchers with the U.S.-based Nature Conservancy, who have helped locals map the extent of coastal erosion.

Dozens of families are now thinking about relocating to new apartments built on a hillside about a 10-minute walk from their source of livelihood, a tough sell for hardy Caribbean fishing families who see beachfront living as a virtual birthright.

If climate change impact predictions come true, scientists and a growing num-



In this April 22, 2013 photo, the stump of an unrooted palm tree sits on the shore of the fishing village in Telegraph, Grenada.

ber of government officials worry that this stressed swath of Grenada could preview what's to come for many other areas in the Caribbean, where 70 percent of the population live in coastal settlements.

In fact, a 2007 report by the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the devastation wreaked on Grenada by 2004's Hurricane Ivan "is a powerful illustration of the reality of small-island vulnerability." The hurricane killed 28 people, caused damage twice the nation's gross domestic product, damaged 90 percent of the housing stock and hotel rooms and shrank an economy that had been growing nearly 6 percent a year, according to the climate scientists' report.

Storms and beach erosion have long shaped the geography of coastal environments, but rising sea levels and surge from more intense storms are expect-

ed to dramatically transform shorelines in coming decades, bringing enormous economic and social costs, experts say. The tourism-dependent Caribbean is thought to be one of the globe's most vulnerable regions.

"It's a massive threat to the economies of these islands," said Owen Day, a marine biologist with the Caribsave Partnership, a nonprofit group based in Barbados that is spearheading adaptation efforts. "I would say the region's coastal areas will be very severely impacted in the next 50 to 100 years."

Scientists and computer models estimate that global sea levels could rise by at least 1 meter (nearly 3.3 feet) by 2100, as warmer water expands and ice sheets melt in Greenland and Antarctica. Global sea levels have risen an average of 3 centimeters (1.18 inches) a decade since 1993, according to many climate scientists, although the effect can be amplified in different areas by topography and other factors.

In the 15 nations that make up the Caribbean Community bloc, that could mean the displacement of 110,000 people and the loss of some 150 multimillion-dollar tourist resorts, according to a model-

ing analysis prepared by Caribsave for the United Nations Development Program and other organizations. Twenty-one of 64 regional airports could be inundated. About 5 percent of land area in the Bahamas and 2 percent of Antigua & Barbuda could be lost. Factoring in surge from more intense storms means a greater percentage of the regional population and infrastructure will be at risk.

In eastern Grenada, people living in degraded coastal areas once protected by mangrove thickets say greater tidal fluctuations have produced unusually high tides that send seawater rushing up rivers. Farmers complain that crops are getting damaged by the intrusion of the salty water.

Adrian George is one of the coastal residents preparing to move into an inland apartment complex built by the Chinese government following the devastation left by Hurricane Ivan.

"I'm now ready to move up to the hills," George said in the trash-strewn eastern Grenadian village of Soubise, which is regularly swamped with seawater and debris at high tide. "Here, the waves will just keep getting closer and

closer until we get swept away." One response in the wealthier island of Barbados has been building a kilometer-long breakwater and waterfront promenade to help protect fragile coastlines. In most cases, international money is pouring in to kick-start "soft engineering" efforts restoring natural buffers such as mangroves, grasses and deep-rooted trees such as sea grape. Some call that the most effective and cheapest way to minimize the impact of rising seas.

But in the long run, "we need to move our centers of population, infrastructure, et cetera, out of the areas likely to become vulnerable to rising seas," said Anthony Clayton, a climate change expert and the director of a sustainability institute at Jamaica's campus of the University of the West Indies.

Where to rebuild will be yet another challenge, with the region's islands mostly rugged and mountainous with small areas of flat land in coastal areas.

Even with the Caribbean so threatened, many islands have been slow to adapt, and awareness of the problem has only recently grown. Last year, the European Investment Bank announced it would give \$65 million in concessionary loans to help 18 Caribbean nations adapt, while conservation groups try, among other projects, to restore buffering mangroves and set up fishing sanctuaries to help fringing reefs recover. The Caribbean Community Climate Change Center in Belize is managing the regional response.

Yet not everyone is convinced that climate change is as dire as forecast.

Peter De Savary, a British entrepreneur and major property developer on Grenada's famed Grande Anse Beach, said the availability of capital, energy costs and the health of the global economy are far more imminent concerns than rising sea levels. □

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Beyonce reigns as forest queen in animated 'Epic'

LOUISE DIXON

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Beyonce loved voicing Queen Tara in the new children's movie "Epic" — at least once she stopped crying.

Queen B has gone from pop royalty to screen royalty, becoming the forest queen in an animated movie that she hopes her 15-month-old daughter Blue Ivy will be proud of one day.

The film was her first work since giving birth and she says her hormones were raging.

"I literally had tears when I played the voice," Beyonce told The Associated Press in an interview between concerts in London. "There was a scene where Queen Tara picks out her pod and I just imagined

seeing my child."

From the creators of the "Ice Age" and "Rio" series, "Epic" follows a teenager who is transported into a secret forest world then embroiled in a battle between good and evil and has to protect a special flower pod to save the forest. The film is being released in the U.S. on May 22.

This role in "Epic" is not the superstar's only brush with royalty of late. When performing in London last week on her "Mrs. Carter Show" world tour, the singer inadvertently singled out Princess Eugenie in the crowd to sing with her. The 23-year-old is sixth in line for the British throne. Beyonce giggled as she revealed that she had no idea who Eugenie was.

"I didn't know, and I still

don't know. Someone told me and I don't know what's going on, but I hope they had a great time and I hope I didn't insult anyone, making them sing into the mic," Beyonce said. "But you know royalty likes to have fun and have a good entertaining night."

Her sellout world tour has also caused some controversy for its racy costumes and explicit lyrics in the song "Bow Down (I Been On)," but for Beyonce it's simply all part of the show. "I'm an artist and I love being able to express myself and I'm not one-dimensional," she said. "I have different feelings every day and now that I've done movies I feel like I can try and recreate these characters on the stage." □



Beyonce attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit celebrating "PUNK: Chaos to Couture" on Monday, May 6, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

Review: Backstage look at 'Mary Tyler Moore Show'

JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

"Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted: And All the Brilliant Minds Who Made The Mary Tyler Moore Show a Classic" (Simon & Schuster), by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong examines the creation of television's "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," which defined a generation, in "Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted."

Using a "fly on the wall" approach into the minds of the people behind the scenes and the cast of the show, Armstrong has written the quintessential book on one of the best sitcoms to grace the airwaves.

"Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted" is really more of a history book than a companion book with an episode guide to the '70s show that starred Mary Tyler Moore, Ed Asner, Valerie Harper and Ted Knight. In fact, there isn't a list of the episodes to be found.

What made this show so

special? What made it succeed when the network executives determined it would fail before it even aired?

Creators James L. Brooks and Allan Burns pitched a show about a divorced woman and ran into a brick wall. They were told American audiences wouldn't tolerate divorce or people who lived in New York City. In response, they made Mary single and moved her to Minneapolis.

The initial run-through of the pilot in front of a live audience was a disaster, and it took advice from a young girl to make one tiny switch that changed everything.

Women were encouraged to write for the series, and soon, other women were joining the writing staffs of other shows.

"Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted" is essential reading for fans of the show or readers curious about the production side of television. □

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In this March 7, 2013 file photo, musician Elvis Costello performs at "The Music of Prince" tribute concert at Carnegie Hall, in New York. Associated Press

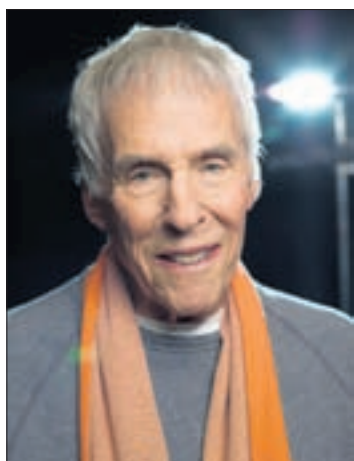
Bacharach, Costello aiming for Broadway

NEW YORK (AP) — One of television's most successful comedy writers is joining with Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello to create a musical based on the artists' 1998 album "Painted From Memory."

Bacharach said Tuesday that Chuck Lorre, creator of "Two and a Half Men" and "The Big Bang Theory," contacted him and said he wanted to write a story to go with the music.

The dark and lush album was an unusual collaboration between a pop classicist and an Englishman who usually traffics in rock 'n' roll. They earned a Grammy for one of its songs, "I Still Have That Other Girl." Other songs on the disc include "God Give Me Strength" and "This House is Empty Now."

Given the songs' subject matter, Bacharach said the show "won't be a comedy." He declined to give



In this Monday, May 6, 2013 file photo, Eight-time Grammy Award winning American composer Burt Bacharach poses for a portrait in promotion of his memoir, "ANYONE WHO HAD A HEART: My Life and Music," in New York. Associated Press

details of the story Lorre was writing for the musical. They're hoping the show makes it to Broadway.

Costello said he and Bacharach are writing additional music for the show. □

PepsiCo agrees to meet with Till family, Sharpton

NEW YORK (AP) — PepsiCo Inc. officials will meet Wednesday with members of Emmett Till's family and civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton. Sharpton continued to press for the meeting last week after the company's partnerships with Lil Wayne and Tyler, the Creator, of Odd Future to promote Mountain Dew sparked controversies. PepsiCo and Lil Wayne have since parted over

creative differences after the rapper's offensive lyrics related to the civil rights icon Till. The company also pulled a commercial directed by Tyler that angered anti-violence and civil rights advocates. The meeting to be held at PepsiCo headquarters in Purchase comes as an outcry over offensive lyrics increases. Reebok recently ended its partnership with Rick Ross for similar reasons.

Love helps Rod Stewart overcome writer's block



Rod Stewart poses for a portrait on Thursday, May 2, 2013 in Los Angeles. Associated Press

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Rod Stewart has never shied from the spotlight, but on this day, the famously cheeky rocker wants a softer glow.

He's waiting to be interviewed on camera about his first album of original music in almost 20 years, and the lighting inside the fitness center of his Beverly Hills compound isn't quite right. He calls for his No. 1 expert to check it out.

"My wife's on her way over," he says.

When Penny Lancaster arrives, legs all the way up to her tousled blonde ponytail, she looks through the camera and insists on softer lights. As they dim, the 42-year-old model/photographer dusts Stewart's face with powder, then leans in toward his trademark spiky 'do.

"Not the hair, not the hair, not the hair," he protests uselessly.

She tugs at two strands, the result imperceptible.

"You only thought you had it perfect," says Lancaster with a cover-girl smile.

There's a lot of love in Stewart's life now, and it's on full display on "Time," his new album out Tuesday. There are other signs, too, like how his youngest

sons' weights are scrawled on a scale inside this apartment-sized gym, just above "mummy" and "daddy"; and how he pauses during an interview to shout, "See ya, Shawny," to his eldest son, Sean, as he grabs some water after playing basketball on the court outside.

After releasing eight cover albums — his five "Great American Songbook" volumes, a Christmas album, "Soulbook" and his classic rock collection — Stewart rediscovered his songwriting voice while reviewing his life for his 2012 autobiography, "Rod." That self-reflection, combined with the personal contentment he clearly feels, resulted in a deeply personal collection of songs: stories about his father, his early life, his eight children, his two divorces.

"It was probably the longest writer's block in history, you know, 20-odd years. But it wasn't self-imposed. It was maybe a lack of confidence," Stewart said. "I'd sort of given up, let's put it that way. But because of the autobiography, it inspired me. And I had a lot to write about... Probably I was in the right state of my life to start writing these very personal songs."

Not only did he find a

wellspring of material, he found a delight in songwriting that had always been elusive.

"It always used to be like work for me. It was never a pleasure. It was never a joy. It was like being at school," he said. "But now, I finally enjoy it. My wife will tell you, I was getting up in the middle of the night and writing down lyrics, just inspired. I can't wait to start writing again. It's tremendous."

Even his longtime manager, Arnold Stiefel, was shocked at how prolific Stewart was without prodding.

"You'd have to lock him in a room to get him to write songs," he said.

"Now, he's approaching it with a real joy. I was blown away."

The autobiography and the album are companions, Stewart said, though in some ways the album is more revealing. Where the book chronicles his evolution into a world-famous rock star (and the attendant pleasures of that lifestyle) along with the happiness of his present circumstances, only the latter comes through on "Time."

"I've got a feeling that this album is a watershed album for me because it is so personal," he said. □

Dear College Graduates ...



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2013 New York Times

I'm scheduled to deliver the commencement address Friday at my alma mater, Grambling State University in Louisiana, so I've been giving quite a bit of thought to the America into which these students are graduating.

I must admit that finding hopeful, encouraging things to say has been exceedingly difficult, in part because the landscape at the moment – particularly for young adults – is so bleak.

Here are some of the facts that I'm up against rhetorically and that these students will be up against more literally.

1. Being a college graduate is becoming less exceptional. As the Pew Research Center pointed out in November, "Record shares of young adults are completing high school, going to college and finishing college." And college graduation rates are growing even more in other countries. And Anya Kamenetz noted in *The Atlantic* magazine in December, "During the past three decades, the United States has slipped from first among nations to 10th in the percentage of people holding a college degree, even as the job market has eroded for Americans without one."

2. Graduates are emerging with staggering amounts of debt and entering a still-sluggish job market. This is causing them to delay major life decisions, like marriage or buying a home or even moving out of their parents' home.

A Pew report from February 2012 found that:

"Since 2010, the share of young adults ages 18 to 24 currently employed (54 percent) has been its lowest since the government began collecting these data in 1948. And the gap in employment between the young and all working-age adults – roughly 15 percentage points – is the widest in recorded history. In addition, young adults employed full time have experienced a greater drop in weekly earnings (down 6 percent) than any other age group over the past four years."

3. Emerging markets, like China and India, have become major competitors for exportable jobs.

4. Income inequality between top earners and the rest of America has risen. And the recovery since the Great Recession has essentially been a recovery of the rich. A recent

study by Emmanuel Saez, a professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley, found that:

"From 2009 to 2011, average real income per family grew modestly by 1.7 percent but the gains were very uneven. Top 1 percent incomes grew by 11.2 percent while bottom 99 percent incomes shrunk by 0.4 percent. Hence, the top 1 percent captured 121 percent of the income gains in the first two years of the recovery."

This was similar to a finding by the Pew Research Center last month:

"During the first two years of the nation's economic recovery, the mean net worth of households in the upper 7 percent of the wealth distribution rose by an estimated 28 percent, while the mean net worth of households in the lower 93 percent dropped by 4 percent."

5. At the same time, the cost of basic goods has soared. For example, when I graduated from college the average price of a gallon of gas was about a dollar (adjusted for inflation that would still be less than \$2), and it's currently nearing \$4. Some people now have to make desperate choices: a tank of gas, a bag of groceries or a bottle of medicine.

6. Our politics have become polarized to the point of paralysis. A Pew poll in June found that Americans' "values and basic beliefs are more polarized along partisan lines than at any point in the past 25 years."

What gives me hope is that despite this dire environment, young people remain more optimistic than anyone else. Some of that may simply be the intrinsic glow of youth, but I believe that with this generation, something more is afoot.

This is a generation of people who have come of age in an era of overlapping traumas – terrorism and wars and recession. They have also come of age in changing times, and are more tolerant and less punitive in their social view. They see this country, and the world, differently than we older folks do. There is an America waiting to be made better, not one that is simply, and irreversibly, getting worse.

According to a CNN/ORC poll released last month, young adults (those 18 to 34) were the most likely to think that things were going well in this country.

I plan to tap into that optimism Friday, and I hope to reflect some of it back at those beaming faces under square hats.

Dear college graduates, this is your moment and your America. Both need your vision and demands your efforts. Keep your head up and your hopes rising. Congratulations and good luck. You'll need it, and I'll be rooting for you. (Flip tassels.) □



Two Killings, Two Guns, Unattended



JOE NOCERA
© 2013 New York Times

On the afternoon of Aug. 7, 2012, Greg Imhoff – a big, friendly 61-year-old construction superintendent from Madison, Wis., who had moved to Florida with his partner, Shari Telvick – went to check on the home of a neighbor.

The neighbor, Richard Detlor, was a friend, someone Imhoff had known back in Madison, where the Detlors still lived for part of the year. Whenever the Detlors went back to Wisconsin, Imhoff would look in on their house, something he did for many of his neighbors.

It is impossible to know whether, on that August afternoon, Imhoff ever saw the stranger in the house with the .22-caliber revolver; all we know for sure is that Imhoff was shot in the head. When Telvick and a friend found him that evening, he was lying in a pool of blood, dead.

The killer turned out to be a man named Billy Ray Retherford, who was on the lam after killing a woman two weeks earlier and was hiding in the Detlors' empty home. The next day, Retherford was killed in a shootout with the police. He was using the same .22 handgun.

The gun, however, was not his. It belonged to Richard Detlor, who, according to the police report, had left it, loaded, in the

nightstand by his bed before departing for Wisconsin several months earlier.

When Imhoff's murder was brought to my attention recently, I was stunned that a supposedly "responsible gun owner" would leave a loaded gun in a house that was empty for months at a time. Yes, the odds of someone breaking into the house and using the gun were small, but they weren't zero. That the Detlors didn't take the simple precaution of unloading their gun and locking it up struck me as incredibly negligent.

Not surprisingly, that's how Shari Telvick sees it, too. "I think the Detlors had a responsibility to secure their weapon," she told me when I spoke to her earlier this week. "I think they should be held accountable." But when she talked to a lawyer, she discovered, to her dismay, that leaving a loaded gun in an empty house doesn't violate Florida law. As Arthur Hayhoe, the executive director of the Florida Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, explained to me, "Safe storage laws in Florida only apply if a minor lives in the house. If it's adults, you can do whatever you want." (He added, "In Florida, there are more laws to protect guns than people.")

For all the protestations by gun owners that most are responsible with their weapons, I have been struck by how many killings take place because people do careless, stupid things. In the gun report that my assistant, Jennifer Mascia, and I compile on my blog, I see daily examples of children accidentally shooting other children with a gun found in the house.

Just the other day, in Burkesville, Ky., a 5-year-old boy shot and killed his 2-year-old sister with a small rifle that had been given to him as a present. Who gives a 5-year-old a gun? (The rifle is

called a Cricket; incredibly, it is marketed specifically to children.) Who leaves the room where their children are playing without checking whether the rifle in the corner is loaded? For that matter, who puts a shotgun within such easy reach of a child?

Gary White, the county coroner, was quick to say that no charges would be brought because it was an accident – and, after all, "accidents happen." But it was a completely preventable accident. When a passenger dies in a car accident that is the result of negligence, there are usually serious legal consequences for the driver. If we really want to reduce gun violence, there must be consequences for negligent gun owners, too. The entire culture of gun ownership has to begin emphasizing safety in a way it doesn't now. It is as important as universal background checks, or limits on magazine rounds.

Shari Telvick couldn't live in Florida after Imhoff's death. "It was unbearable to be in that house without him," she said. She remains devastated. Two months after Imhoff died, she told me, his first grandchild was born.

Telvick had never been friendly with the Detlors, and she made it clear that she didn't want to see them. But she's been surprised, she said, that they've never reached out to Greg's children, whom they've known for years. I decided to call the Detlors. The woman who answered refused to put Richard Detlor on the phone.

"Do you think he is sorry?" I asked. "Sorry for what?" she said, before hanging up on me. A few days later, I called again. The same woman picked up. This time, she said, "We are as much victims as anyone else in this."

Then, once again, she hung up the phone. □



Plated shakshuka with feta.
(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

Shakshuka: Middle Eastern Tomatoes and Eggs

MELISSA CLARK

© 2013 New York Times

The only time I visited Israel, it was during Passover. Gastronomically, this was not the ideal time, given the dietary restrictions of the holiday.

There was no pita bread, no hummus, no falafel. I was thankful, though, that there was shakshuka, eggs baked in fragrant tomato sauce, and a lot of it.

There was shakshuka and yogurt for breakfast, shakshuka and salad for lunch, shakshuka and matzo for dinner.

Rather than tiring of the egg dish, I became obsessed with it, noting the differences in the thickness and red-pepper content of the tomato sauces, and the firmness to which the eggs were poached, nestled in their ruddy bed.

My favorite version, I decided, had a piquant, garlic-flecked tomato sauce that was heavy on soft, sweet onions and lighter on the peppers. As for spices, I wanted to be able to taste

the cumin and paprika but not be overwhelmed by them, while the cayenne should provide just a gentle slap of heat.

Perhaps most important, the eggs needed to be just set but not quite solid, with the yolks still wiggling and ready to flow with the merest suggestion of contact with my fork.

When I got home, I distilled what I knew about shakshuka into skillet after skillet of the stuff until I came up with the version I liked best. Once I had it down, I didn't change the basic formula for years.

Then recently I added some crumbled feta cheese to the pan along with the eggs. Feta softens but doesn't melt when it's baked in the oven, creating creamy, salty nuggets strewn among the tomato-sauce-lapped eggs. Although I haven't tried it, I imagine that a soft, fresh goat cheese will also work if cut into pieces before being added to the pan.

I'll serve this for any meal



Freshly prepared shakshuka with feta. Eaten around the clock during Passover, shakshuka is a great fit for brunch at any time of year.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

of the day, just as they do in Israel, but it's especially fitting for brunch. Since it's not Passover and I'm not in Israel, chunks of crusty bread or soft pitas do a fine job of sopping up the fragrant sauce. And on that note, hummus is particularly nice alongside.

SHAKSHUKA WITH FETA

Time: 50 minutes

Yield: 3 to 6 servings

3 tablespoons extra-virgin

olive oil

1 large onion, halved and thinly sliced

1 large red bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced

3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon sweet paprika

1/8 teaspoon cayenne, or to taste

1 (28-ounce) can whole plum tomatoes with juices, coarsely chopped

3/4 teaspoon salt, more as needed

1/4 teaspoon black pepper, more as needed

5 ounces feta cheese, crumbled (about 1 1/4 cups)

6 large eggs

Chopped cilantro, for serving

Hot sauce, for serving

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.

2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add onion and bell pepper. Cook gently until very soft, about 20 minutes. Add garlic and cook until tender, 1 to 2 minutes; stir in cumin, paprika and cayenne, and cook 1 minute. Pour in tomatoes and season with 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper; simmer until tomatoes have thickened, about 10 minutes. Stir in crumbled feta.

3. Gently crack eggs into skillet over tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer skillet to oven and bake until eggs are just set, 7 to 10 minutes. Sprinkle with cilantro and serve with hot sauce. □